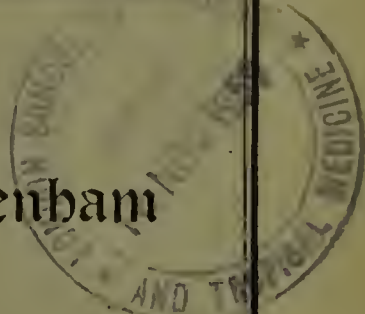


4432(1)CHELTENHAM

Borough of



Cheltenham



ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Health of Cheltenham

Vital Statistics, Sanitary Work, &c.

FOR THE YEAR

1957

BY

T. O. P. D. LAWSON, M.D., D.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

Together with the Report of
J. F. URSELL, D.P.A., M.I.P.H.E., F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

"Salus Populi Suprema Lex"

Norman Brothers Limited, Cheltenham and London

67130



Borough of



Cheltenham

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Health of Cheltenham

Vital Statistics, Sanitary Work, &c.

FOR THE YEAR

1957

BY

T. O. P. D. LAWSON, M.D., D.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

Together with the Report of
J. F. URSELL, D.P.A., M.I.P.H.E., F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

"Salus Populi Suprema Lex"

Constitution of Committees as at 31st December, 1957

Health Committee

Alderman LT.-COL. C. W. BIGGS, O.B.E. (*Chairman*)

Alderman A. J. BETTRIDGE (*Vice-Chairman*)

Councillor C. C. BARLOW

Councillor J. W. O. POPE

Councillor R. F. BROOKES

Councillor Mrs. J. RAWLINGS

Councillor W. BULLINGHAM

Councillor T. M. RUCK

Councillor A. DODWELL

Councillor A. E. TRIGG

Councillor C. W. A. FOSTER

MEDICAL AND SCHOOL ATTENDANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

Councillor F. L. CARTER (*Chairman*)

Councillor A. G. DYE

Councillor H. G. JAMES

Councillor D. W. J. GRAZIER

Councillor J. W. O. POPE

Miss D. HORTON

Mr. L. J. RICHARDS

Mrs. I. M. B. JAMES

Councillor A. W. A. TAYLOR

Councillor A. H. YATES

Health Department Staff

(as at 31.12.57)

Medical Officer of Health	} <i>Thomas O. P. D. Lawson, M.D.,</i> <i>D.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.</i>
School Medical Officer	
Divisional Medical Officer	
Deputy Medical Officer of Health	} <i>A. Parry Jones, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.</i>
Assistant School Medical Officer	
Assistant School Medical Officer	
	<i>Brenda G. King, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S.,</i> <i>L.R.C.P.</i>
Chief Public Health Inspector	<i>J. F. Ursell, D.P.A., M.I.P.H.E.,</i> <i>F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.*†</i>
Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector	<i>A. L. Jones, M.A.P.H.I., San.Science</i> <i>R.S.H.*†</i>
District Inspectors	<i>G. J. C. Buck, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.*†</i> <i>A. H. Carling, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.*†</i> <i>R. Hullab*†</i> <i>H. Stone, M.A.P.H.I.*†</i> <i>R. J. Wintle, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.*†</i>
School Dentists	<i>A. J. Lane, L.D.S.</i> <i>A. W. McCarthy, L.D.S.</i>
School Clinic Nurses	<i>Nurse M. Laffineur, S.R.N., R.F.N.</i> <i>Nurse M. S. Read, S.R.N.</i> <i>Nurse A. Wood, S.R.N.</i>
Chief Clerk	<i>W. H. G. Meakins</i>
Senior Clerk	<i>D. Y. Harrison</i>
Medical Officer of Health's Secretary	<i>Miss G. W. Hiron</i>
Chief Public Health Inspector's Secretary	<i>Miss M. E. J. Edden</i>
Clerical Assistants	<i>Miss G. Kear</i> <i>Mrs. M. Rogers</i>
School Clinic Clerks	<i>Miss J. Beach</i> <i>Miss A. Clark</i> <i>Miss M. Thomas</i>
School Dental Attendants	<i>Mrs. S. Trafford</i> <i>Miss P. I. Winter</i>
Enquiry Office Clerk	<i>Mrs. H. Tonks</i>
Junior Clerk	<i>Miss M. A. MacKenzie</i>
Pupil	<i>R. E. Jones</i>
Disinfection Officer	<i>G. Cross</i>

* Certified Meat and Foods Inspector, R.S.H.

† Public Health Inspector's Education Board Certificate.

NOTE—For Rodent Control and Abattoir staff see Report of Chief Public Health Inspector, page 63.

Annual Report on the Health of the Borough of Cheltenham for the Year 1957

*To His Worship the Mayor, the Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Cheltenham.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Borough of Cheltenham for the year 1957.

Once again the health of the Borough during the year presents a picture of continued improvement and progress. The only items which stand out for special comment are those demonstrating further developments in the successful prevention of disease. No serious epidemics have affected the community although a number of cases of poliomyelitis were notified, but the disease never appeared in epidemic form.

As in previous years, a detailed account of the infantile mortality rate will appear later in the report as this is a matter which is still under active investigation. While the infant mortality rate for Cheltenham is not as low as it should be, it is not giving us any serious cause for alarm and the general picture is similar to the previous year. An investigation into the Maternity and Child Welfare services in the Borough was carried out by the Ministry of Health towards the end of the year.

There was no serious outbreak of any of the common infectious diseases during the year, and apart from tuberculosis, no deaths were caused by them. As in previous years, there have been no cases of diphtheria and as reported later, there has once again been an increase in the number of immunisations. The number of deaths from tuberculosis has fallen again to a new low level and each year shows a further reduction in the incidence of the disease in the town.

The following is a short summary of the more important aspects of the public health in Cheltenham during the year.

Infant Mortality

The infant mortality rate, i.e., the number of infants who died in the first year of life per 1000 live births, was 27.27 approximately the same as the previous year when the rate was 27.8. The number of infant deaths (33) was the same as last year and the number of premature baby deaths, i.e., the number of babies with birthweights less than five and a

half pounds, was 16, also exactly the same number as last year. The general picture is a little better than the previous year but there is still room for considerable improvement. The infant mortality rate for England and Wales for the year was 23.1 and there is no good reason why Cheltenham should be four points above that figure. Improvements are being effected which cannot show quick results, but I am quite confident that the desired results can and will be achieved.

A more detailed analysis of the infant mortality will be found later in the Report.

Diphtheria

There were no notifications of diphtheria in the town during the year.

Tuberculosis

As in previous years tuberculosis continues on the downward trend. Again there has been a new low record in the number of notified cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and a similar low record in the number of deaths from the disease. The tuberculosis death rate in the town is below the national tuberculosis death rate.

Other Infectious Diseases

Apart from a sporadic increase in the number of poliomyelitis cases, the incidence of the common infectious diseases during the year was of no special significance, although as in other parts of the country, there was a sharp outbreak of Asian Influenza.

Maternal Mortality

No expectant mother died during the year as a result of pregnancy or confinement or of any condition associated with pregnancy or confinement.

Other Vital Statistics

The recorded population of the town again shows a small increase over the previous year from 68,010 to 68,230. The number of births has likewise increased with a corresponding increase in the birth rate which is appreciably above the national figure. The death rate per 1,000 of the population shows a fall from 12.69 in 1956 to 11.94 during the current year and compares favourably with the national figure (11.5).

The staff of the Health Department has had a particularly busy year due chiefly to the added responsibility for poliomyelitis vaccination, which has continued as fast as supplies of vaccine would allow. I am especially indebted to all of them, medical, nursing and clerical staff for the efficiency with which this new task is being accomplished. During the year, 2,660 vaccinations were completed in children between the ages of 2 years and 9 years. Next year, the vaccination scheme will be extended to all children between 6 months and 15 years, but we hope to have the assistance of the general practitioners in the town in order to cope with the anticipated increase in demand for vaccination.

I would like to express my appreciation once again for the continued support I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee and from all Members and Officers of the Council. The successful functioning of the Department requires the support and assistance of every member of the staff and in this respect, I am indeed well served. In particular, I would like to record my appreciation for the invaluable assistance I receive from Mr. J. F. Ursell, Chief Public Health Inspector, and Mr. W. H. G. Meakins, Chief Clerk, who is responsible for the statistical data of this Report. The continued co-operation which we receive from our colleagues in the general practitioner and hospital service, is a very great asset in the administration of the Health Department and I would especially thank Dr. J. A. Pitt Evans, Pathologist, Cheltenham General Hospital, and his staff for their readiness to meet promptly our demands on the laboratory service.

The many voluntary organisations in the town who concern themselves with the sick and disabled continue their good work and deserve the thanks and appreciation of the whole community. They can always be assured of full co-operation from the Health Department.

In conclusion I would like to thank the Press once again for the ready assistance we receive in all matters concerning the health of the community.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

T. O. P. D. LAWSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS, 1957

Area of Borough	...	...	...	...	...	5,146 acres
Population	{ Census 1951, Corrected Figure					62,823
	{ Mid-year, 1957. Registrar General's Estimate					68,230
Number of inhabited houses (as at 31.3.58)	{ (a) Houses and Flats					20,296
	{ (b) Hotels, Occupied Shops, etc.					626
Rateable Value (as at 31.3.57)	...	...	...	...	...	£1,265,440
Sum represented by a penny rate (1957-58)	...	...	...	...	...	£4,633

TABULAR STATEMENT OF THE MAIN VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1957

(with comparative Figures for England and Wales and other Great Towns).

	M	F	Totals	Rates per 1,000 Population		
Live Births						
Legitimate	587	529	1116			
Illegitimate	46	48	94	Cheltenham	160 Great Towns including London (average)	England and Wales
TOTALS	633	577	1210	17.73	16.1	16.1
Still Births						
Legitimate	6	14	20	} 16.26 Per 1,000 Total (Live & Still)	22.5	22.5
Illegitimate	—	—	—			
TOTALS	6	14	20	0.29	0.37	0.37
DEATHS	369	446	815	11.94	11.5	11.5
Deaths of Infants (Under 1 yr. of age)						
Legitimate	21	9	30	} Rates per 1,000 Live Births 27.27		
Illegitimate	2	1	3			
TOTALS	23	10	33		23.5	23.1
Maternal Deaths	—	—	—	—	{ Rates per 1000 Live and Still Births }	0.47

NOTE ON TABULAR STATEMENT

The figures for births and deaths are corrected for inward and outward transfers in order that the statistics may give as true a picture as possible of local conditions.

MAIN VITAL STATISTICS—10 YEAR PERIOD 1948-57 (inclusive).

CHELTENHAM					INFANT DEATH RATES Per 1,000 Live Births			TOTAL DEATHS	DEATH RATE Per 1,000 of Population				
YEAR	Estimated Population RG	No. of Live Births	Birth Rate per 1000 population	Total Deaths of Infants (under 1 year of age)	Cheltenham	Large Towns	England and Wales	Cheltenham	Cheltenham		England and Wales	Tuberculosis (Cheltenham)	
									Recorded	Corrected		Pulmonary	Other
1948	64260	1099	17.1	35	31.8	39	34	770	12.0	9.8	10.8	0.45	0.03
1949	64150	1123	17.5	34	30.3	37	32	806	12.56	11.2	11.7	0.33	0.00
1950	64600	1033	15.99	43	41.63	33.8	29.8	822	12.72	11.3	11.6	0.23	0.046
1951	65080	1068	16.4	36	33.7	33.9	29.6	904	13.89	12.22	12.5	0.25	0.046
1952	65060	1113	17.1	38	34.14	31.2	27.6	830	12.76	11.23	11.3	0.108	0.046
1953	66210	1077	16.3	33	30.64	30.8	26.8	842	12.72	11.18	11.4	0.166	0.045
1954	67450	1132	16.78	33	29.15	29.02	25.5	877	13.0	10.66	11.3	0.119	0.029
1955	67730	1125	16.61	34	30.22	25.1	24.9	816	12.05	9.88	11.7	0.118	0.015
1956	68010	1187	17.45	33	27.8	24.0	23.8	863	12.69	11.17	11.7	0.103	0.00
1957	68230	1210	17.73	33	27.27	23.5	23.1	815	11.94	10.51	11.5	0.073	0.00

NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1957

Population

The Registrar's estimate of the population of Cheltenham for mid-year 1957 is 68,230 which is 220 more than the estimate for 1956.

Death Rate

The Crude Death Rate was 11·94, a slightly lower figure than that of last year. The corrected Death Rate (Registrar's correction factor 0·88) was 10·5 compared with the figure of 11·5 for England and Wales.

Birth Rate

Live Births in 1957 totalled 1210 which is 23 more than the figure for the previous year.

The Birth Rate was 17.73 and is the highest figure since 1949. The Registrar now provides a correction factor for birth rates. For Cheltenham this factor is 0.97 which gives a rate of 17.19 compared with the rate of 16.1 for England and Wales.

The number of Still births, per 1,000 live and still births, was 16.26 (or 15.77 corrected) compared with 22.5 for England and Wales.

Causes of Death relating to Cheltenham Residents as given by the Registrar-General for the year 1957.

							<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	4	1
2	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
3	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
4	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
6	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
8	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	...	11	15
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	22	6
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	...	—	14
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	...	—	5
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	35	50
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
16	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
17	Vascular lesions of nervous systems	...	...	...	...	...	40	79
18	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	...	75	47
19	Hypertension, with heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	11	6
20	Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	42	85
21	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	3	24
22	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	3	5
23	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	12	17
24	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	13	9
							Total carried forward	
							277	370

						<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Total brought forward						277	370
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	4	5
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	9	4
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	1	2
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	1	1
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	14	—
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	—	—
31	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	3	4
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	38	40
33	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	10	2
34	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	8	15
35	Suicide	...	...	...	...	4	3
36	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	—	—
All Causes						369	446

DISCUSSION

Heart Disease

Heart disease is still the cause of the largest number of deaths although there has been an appreciable reduction from 304 deaths in 1956 to 266 deaths in 1957. However, the number of deaths due to disease of the coronary arteries has increased from over 40% in 1956 to over 45% during 1957. This condition which has been described as one of the "stress" diseases of modern life is still on the increase.

Cancer

The number of cancer deaths (158) are a little lower than last year (162). There has been no significant increase or decrease in any specific type of cancer and this includes lung cancer. The number of deaths from lung cancer during the year was 28 compared with 33 during the previous year.

Lung Cancer

Whatever may be one's individual opinion regarding the association between smoking and lung cancer, those who have not deliberately ignored the evidence, cannot fail to realise that smokers, and especially heavy cigarette smokers, run a risk of contracting lung cancer. Clinically there is no absolute proof. Statistically the proof is very strong indeed. Knowing these facts we must decide for ourselves what we are going to do about them, and there is no point in ignoring the fact that the public has already responded by smoking more tobacco during 1956 than in any previous year. So much for public opinion.

However, facts cannot be ignored and one fact is clear, that there has been a very great increase in deaths from lung cancer, in fact, the disease has almost reached epidemic proportions. Those of us who have a responsibility for the prevention of disease must consider and, if possible devise means which might help to prevent this disease. It would appear that the adult population has made up its mind and so our main efforts must be directed towards the children.

Whatever may be the arguments for and against smoking, children who have never smoked and who can be persuaded not to take up the smoking habit, can derive nothing but good. This is not just health propaganda, it is common sense. It is however, a waste of time trying to scare a schoolchild off smoking by warning him of a disease which may or may not affect him thirty or forty years later. It is proposed to approach the schoolchild by means of a campaign of general health education which will include, among other things, advice about the undesirability of taking up the smoking habit. Head teachers will be asked to assist and it is hoped to give talks on the subject to parent-teacher associations. A pamphlet on general health education to be issued to all school leavers is in course of preparation. We cannot expect to see any immediate results from these efforts, but even if only a few children are influenced it will be worth while.

Deaths from Accidents

In recent years fatal accidents have figured more prominently in statistical tables showing causes of death. In spite of the efforts made by the Road Safety Committee it will be noted below that fatalities during 1957 were the highest for five years.

					<i>Motor Vehicle Accidents</i>	<i>Other Accidents</i>
1953	...	...	...	...	5	25
1954	...	...	...	...	12	22
1955	...	...	...	...	9	21
1956	...	...	...	...	6	18
1957	...	...	...	...	12	23

Infant Mortality

There were 33 infant deaths in 1957, the same number as in 1956. This gives an infant mortality rate of 27.27 which is slightly lower than that of last year (27.8).

Causes of death were as follows :—					<i>Neo-Natal</i>	<i>1 mth-1 yr.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Prematurity	...	...	...	...	16	—	16
Respiratory	...	...	...	...	—	5	5
Congenital Malformation	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Congenital Atelectasis	...	...	...	...	4	—	4
Accidental	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Other	...	...	...	...	2	4	6
					—	—	—
Total				...	23	10	33
					—	—	—

The number of infant deaths is the same as in the previous year but the infant mortality rate in the Borough is slightly lower as a result of an increase in the birth rate. There has been no worsening of the situation and no increase in the number of premature baby deaths which is exactly the same as last year (16). Deaths of babies born prematurely comprised 48% of the total infant deaths, the same as last year. It is in this category, therefore, that our main effort is being made to reduce the infant mortality.

It is a simple matter merely to state that more premature babies must be saved. We and the hospital authority are devising all possible means towards this end but we must first of all start with a baby which has a reasonable chance of survival. Of the 16 premature babies who died during the year, 10 were under $3\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. in weight. The weight range was from 1 lb. 13 ozs. to 3 lbs. 6 ozs. Even with the best equipment available it is not easy to save such premature infants. The remaining 6 premature babies were over 4 lbs. in weight and presumably had a reasonable chance of survival. However, five out of six of these babies suffered from other conditions which in themselves were sufficient to cause death apart altogether from prematurity. It is not sufficient therefore to try and save the premature baby. We must try and prevent babies being born so prematurely that they have little chance of survival. This means very careful ante natal supervision of all expectant mothers known to have had previous premature babies or miscarriages or found to be suffering from conditions liable to cause premature births, and especially we must have more ante natal beds for hospital treatment.

Of the 16 premature baby deaths, with one exception, all were born in hospital or nursing home. One was transferred to hospital after birth. All died in hospital or nursing home. They included one set of twins both under 3 lbs. in weight. In three cases, including the twins, there was no ante natal care because the mother had not consulted a doctor or midwife.

The re-organised scheme for the domiciliary care of the premature infant is still functioning successfully. Since its inception in September, 1956, 15 premature babies have been nursed at home. These babies were around 4 lbs. in weight at birth and when the equipment was withdrawn all had survived and made a satisfactory gain in weight. It is proposed to extend this scheme by having an additional midwife specially trained in the care of the premature baby in the home. The co-operation of general practitioners and midwives has greatly contributed to the success of this service.

While discussing infant deaths, it might be appropriate to say a word about still births, because during recent years several national newspapers have referred to the high still birth rate in the town. Only once in the last six years has the still birth rate been significantly above the national average. In the other five years the rate has been similar to if not below the national average except for the year under review in this report, which shows a still birth rate (16.26) well below the national average (22.4). It might also be as well to mention in connection with the infant death rate that only two of the mothers concerned were unmarried.

WATER SUPPLY OF THE BOROUGH

There has been no change of importance in any of the four sources of supply referred to in previous annual reports. Regular samples are taken at all these sources by members of the staff of the Health Department and are submitted for bacteriological and chemical analysis. In addition, one member of the staff is responsible for drawing the Spa Water at the Pump Room, for sterilizing and testing and delivering supplies to the Town Hall. All samples of water supplies including Spa Waters are examined by Mr. J. Henderson, Analyst to the Cheltenham and Gloucester Joint Water Board, who has provided the following report showing the number of samples examined bacteriologically and chemically during 1956.

*Bacteriological Examinations.**No. of Samples examined*

1956 1957

Tewkesbury

Raw River Water	116	114
Coagulated water at outlet, from tanks	39	45
Coagulated water above filters	39	47
Filtered water	286	352
Chloraminated water	563	760
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1043	1318

Cheltenham

Dowdeswell Clean	13	12
Hewletts Raw	—	5
Hewletts Raw	—	6
Northfield	18	26
Sandford	16	12
Swimming Pools	36	34
Miscellaneous	68	11
Spa Waters	27	24
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	178	130

The intensity of bacteriological pollution of the River Severn was somewhat higher than during 1956, 64.1 % (compared with 56.0 %) of the river samples showing the presence of presumptive *B. Coli* in volumes of 0.01 ml. or less. Differential analysis of the coliform organisms is now a routine and the following table may be a guide in the future to the excretal pollution which the river receives.

Raw River Water

Percentage of Samples yielding by minimal values :

	<i>Coliform Organisms</i>	<i>Bact. Coli I.</i>
In 0.001 ml.	13.2 %	4.8 %
In 0.01 ml.	50.9 %	23.1 %
In 0.1 ml.	26.3 %	37.5 %
In 1.0 ml.	9.6 %	19.2 %
In 10.0 ml.		10.6 %
In 50.0 ml.		4.8 %

Of the final water samples 98.4 % showed the absence of presumptive coliform organisms in 100 ml. quantities. One positive *B. Coli* sample was not confirmed in the reference sample.

The bacteriological condition of samples of potable water and swimming bath waters from Cheltenham sources continued to be generally satisfactory.

*Chemical Examinations**No. of Samples examined*

1956 1957

Tewkesbury

Raw river water	642	584
Coagulated and Filtered waters	4268	4019
Final waters	1531	1673
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	6441	6276

CHEMICAL EXAMINATIONS

							<i>No. of Samples Examined</i>	
Cheltenham							1956	1957
Dowdeswell	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	4
Northfield	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	4
Sandford	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	4
Swimming Pools	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	—
							20	14

SWIMMING BATHS.

Regular samples of water from the Swimming Baths are submitted for bacteriological examination. These showed that a satisfactory standard has been maintained throughout the year.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) REGULATIONS

During 1957, licences to use special designations in relation to milk sold within the Borough, totalled eighty-one, as follows :—

Designation	Type of Licence			Total
	Pasteurisers	Dealers	Supplementary	
Tuberculin Tested	—	33	1	34
Pasteurised	2	32	1	35
Sterilised	—	12	—	12
TOTALS	2	77	2	81

Samples are taken fortnightly for analysis and the reports are submitted to the Health Committee.

Very few results during 1957 failed to satisfy the standards of the Ministry of Health.

**PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES**

The following statement shows the corrected numbers of cases notified during 1957. (Tuberculosis is dealt with separately). An analysis of the notifications according to age and sex is set out on page 19.

Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	739
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Poliomyelitis—Paralytic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
NON Paralytic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	80
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	70

NOTES ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Poliomyelitis

There was an increase in the number of cases of poliomyelitis notified during the year, 6 of the paralytic type and 3 non-paralytic. These cases were scattered throughout the year and no general measures had to be taken to deal with the epidemic form of the disease.

Vaccination against poliomyelitis continued throughout the year and although limited by the supply of vaccine available, 2,660 vaccinations were completed. Towards the end of the year arrangements were made in anticipation of much larger supplies, to vaccinate all children registered between the ages of six months and fifteen years, before the onset of the poliomyelitis season in 1958. All vaccinations so far completed have been free of any serious complications.

It is now possible to give a preliminary account of the effectiveness of the British Poliomyelitis Vaccine following a report to the Medical Research Council by its Poliomyelitis Vaccine Committee in June, 1957. When the vaccine was first introduced early in 1956, nearly two million children were registered for vaccination, but owing to limited supplies only 148,684 received the required two injections and it was possible to compare the poliomyelitis attack rate among those children with the remainder of the two million registered who could not receive the injections. In the 74,660 vaccinated children aged roughly $5\frac{1}{2}$ to $9\frac{1}{2}$ years, who received two injections of the vaccine, one case of paralytic poliomyelitis occurred. This gives an attack rate of 1.3 per 100,000. The attack rate in the corresponding unvaccinated children was 8.2 per 100,000. In the 74,024 children aged roughly $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $5\frac{1}{2}$ years who received two injections of the vaccine, three cases of paralytic poliomyelitis occurred. This gives an attack rate of 4.1 per 100,000. The attack rate in the corresponding unvaccinated children was 20.1 per 100,000.

In both the above age groups therefore, the observed incidence of paralytic disease in the vaccinated children was only about one fifth of the incidence in the unvaccinated. However, the poliomyelitis Vaccines Committee point out that owing to the comparatively small number of children vaccinated it is not yet possible to assess with any real precision the degree of protection conferred by the vaccine.

Measles

There was an increase in the number of notified cases of measles (739) as compared with 1956 (545) but this was of no great significance. No deaths were reported.

Whooping Cough

Whooping cough notifications dropped by almost half as compared with 1956. There were no deaths from the disease.

The number of children in the Borough who have been immunised against Whooping Cough during the year is as follows:—

Local Authority	Under 1 yr.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
	193	27	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	223
Private Practitioners	36	15	2	2	3	—	1	—	—	2	61
	229	42	2	3	5	—	1	—	—	2	284

The following table gives the number of Infectious diseases notified, divided into groups of age and sex.

	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Acute Poliomyelitis				Measles	Diphtheria		
			PARALYTIC		NON- PARALYTIC					
Under 1 year 1 to 2 years 3 to 4 years 5 to 9 years 10 to 14 years 15 to 24 years 25 years and over Age unknown	M.	M.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
	—	5	—	—	—	—	20	—	—	—
	—	3	—	—	—	—	38	—	—	—
	3	8	3	—	—	—	158	—	—	—
	10	14	—	—	—	—	152	—	—	—
	4	7	—	—	—	—	15	—	—	—
	1	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
	—	—	—	1	2	—	3	—	—	—
Total (all ages)	18	37	5	1	1	2	392	—	—	—
					Acute Encephalitis		347		Enteric or Typhoid Fever	Paratyphoid Fever
Under 5 years 5 to 14 years 15 to 44 years 45 to 64 years 65 years and over Age unknown	M.	M.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F,
	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	20	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total (all ages)										
					Ophthalmia neonatorum				Food Poisoning	
Under 5 years 5 to 14 years 15 to 44 years 45 to 64 years 65 years and over Age unknown	M.	M.	F.	—	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	80	—	—	—	—	2	25
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total (all ages)	4	—	80	1	—	—	—	3	—	30

Diphtheria

The following table shows the number of complete injections carried out, together with the immunity index :—

Age at 31.12.57 i.e. born in years indicated.	Under 1 1957	1-4 1956-1953	5-9 1952-1948	10-14 1947-1943	Under 15 Total
Last complete course of injec- tions (whether primary or booster)					
A.1953-1957	135	2615	3859	2966	9575
B.1952 or earlier	—	—	997	2313	3310
C. Estimated mid-year child population	1027	3944	11,000		15,971
Immunity Index 100A/C	12.26	77.28	62.04		66.07

There has been an increase once again in the number of immunisations as compared with 1956. The immunity index for the total child population has risen from 60 in 1956 to 66.07 in 1957 and it is especially important to see such a marked improvement among pre-school children. The last notified case of diphtheria in the town was in 1952.

The figures in the following table show the total number of immunisations known to have been completed during the last five years :—

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
By the School Doctors and at Welfare Clinics ...	393	162	304	452	381
By Private Practitioners ...	360	464	654	639	515
	753	626	958	1091	896

The 515 cases completed by private practitioners during 1957 included 426 combined Diphtheria and Whooping Cough immunisations.

Reinforcing Doses at ages 5 and 8 years

During 1957, 736 doses were given at or about 5 years of age, 70 by Private Practitioners and 666 by the School Doctors. For the age of 8, the corresponding figures were 780, 25 and 755.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES 10 YEAR PERIOD 1948-57 INCLUSIVE

Year	Malaria	Smallpox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Typhoid Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Polio-myelitis and Polio-encephalitis	Erysipelas	Meningococcal Meningitis	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Dysentery	Food Poisoning	Acute Encephalitis	Measles	Whooping Cough	Tuberculosis	
								P NP						Infective	Post-Infectious		Pulmonary	Other
1948	—	—	72	2	—	14	57	—	12	—	2	4	—	—	358	221	59	15
1949	—	—	46	2	—	3	40	—	4	—	10	—	8	—	94	86	57	7
1950	1	—	53	1	—	4	35	6	6	2	—	47	—	—	1448	225	70	14
1951	—	—	58	—	1	8	59	1	4	—	—	22	5	2	218	196	58	17
1952	—	—	25	1	—	16	47	2	5	—	—	5	3	—	1108	149	38	9
1953	1	—	87	—	—	18	68	1	6	2	2	3	11	—	376	283	40	7
1954	—	—	61	—	—	26	32	17	5	2	1	5	14	—	530	145	53	4
1955	—	—	107	—	—	54	36	7	4	1	6	6	14	—	797	109	46	7
1956	1	—	50	—	—	44	46	—	5	4	1	12	1	—	545	148	34	8
1957	—	—	35	—	—	80	43	6	7	1	1	1	33	—	739	70	29	8

P=Paralytic
NP=Non-Paralytic

Vaccination against Smallpox

The importance of smallpox vaccination is still being stressed and our Health Visitors take every opportunity to advise parents about the necessity to protect their children against this disease. The results are the most encouraging for at least ten years when compulsory vaccination was abolished. During 1957, fifty per cent of children born during the year were vaccinated, which means that the smallpox vaccination rate among infants under one year has doubled since 1954.

During the year 614 children under one year were vaccinated, i.e., 50% of the children born during the year, a marked improvement on last year (37%). About 40% of these vaccinations were done in Child Welfare Centres, and the remaining 60% by family doctors.

ANNUAL RETURN OF FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS

(Corrected)

(Salmonella Infections that are not considered to be food borne should not be included under items (2), (3) or (4) but should be shown separately under item (5)).

1. Local Authority. Cheltenham. Year 1957.

2. (a) Food Poisoning Notifications (Corrected) as returned to Registrar General.

1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
—	31	1	1	33

(b) Cases otherwisely ascertained

1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
—	—	—	—	—

Note: Symptomless excretors should not be regarded as cases, and any notification of a symptomless excreter should be corrected. At the same time the numbers of symptomless excretors may at the Authority's discretion be entered here, separately.

(c) Fatal Cases

1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
—	—	—	—	—

3. Particulars of Outbreaks

Details of each outbreak to be given as in Appendix D (ii).

	No. of outbreaks		No. of cases		Total No. of cases
	Family outbreaks	Other outbreaks	Notified	Otherwise Ascertained	
Agent identified*	—	31 (e)	31 (e)	—	31 (e)
Agent not identified	—	—	—	—	—

4. Single Cases

	No. of cases		Total No. of cases
	Notified	Otherwise ascertained	
Agent identified*	1 (b)	—	1 (b)
Agent not identified	1	—	1

*To be classified according to agents.

- (a) Chemical Poisons (Type to be stated).
- (b) Salmonella (type to be stated) (Typhi Murium).
- (c) Staphylococci (including toxin).
- (d) C1. botulinum.
- (e) C1. welchii.
- (f) Other bacteria (to be named).

5. Salmonella Infections, not Food-borne.

Salmonella (Type)	Outbreaks		No. of cases (outbreaks)	Single cases	Total No. of cases (Outbreaks and single Cases)
	Family	Other			
—	—	—	—	—	—

Although 33 cases of food poisoning were notified during the year, 25 of these resulted from a sharp outbreak in a maternity hospital involving patients and staff. The cause of the outbreak was traced and no further cases occurred.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1957

Age Periods			New Cases				Deaths			
			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5 years	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-15 "	...	...	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
15-25 "	...	...	2	6	1	—	—	—	—	—
25-35 "	...	...	—	4	1	2	—	—	—	—
35-45 "	...	...	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55 "	...	...	2	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
55-65 "	...	...	3	1	—	1	1	1	—	—
65 and upwards	...	...	3	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
TOTALS	...	...	13	16	2	6	4	1	—	—

Death Rates

The Tuberculosis death rates for Cheltenham during 1957 were as follows :—

		Pulmonary Tuberculosis	0·073	} Per 1,000 of Population
		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	0·00	
		Total	<u>0·073</u>	
			<u> </u>	
Comparative Figures	}	Great Towns average	Total 0·12	}
		England and Wales	Total 0·11	

Once again the number of new cases notified and the number of deaths from tuberculosis have reached a new low record. Only 29 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified as compared with 34 in 1956. The number of non-pulmonary cases (8) was the same as the previous year. There were five deaths compared with seven in 1956.

Disinfection

Work was started during the year to replace the present disinfecter which has long outlived its usefulness. Land was aquired alongside the Abattoir and a building to house a new modern steam disinfecter is now under construction. All the services, including steam, for the new disinfecter will be run across the Chelt from the Abattoir. This will result in a considerable economy in time, labour and manpower as well as providing much more efficient disinfection. It is hoped that the new disinfection station will be in operation during 1958.

HOUSING

Very close co-operation is maintained between the Health and Housing Committees in connection with medical priorities for rehousing and in cases where a Demolition or Closing Order is operative. The following is the number of cases dealt with during the year :—

Number of cases rehoused because of Tuberculosis 6 (8)

Number of cases rehoused from houses on which a Demolition or Closing Order was operative 68 (18)

The 1956 figures are shown in brackets.

REGISTRATION AND INSPECTION OF NURSING HOMES.

SECTIONS 187-194. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

At the commencement of 1957 there were 11 Nursing Homes on the Register. Two Nursing Homes closed during the year.

The total number of beds available at the end of the year was 113 classified as follows ;

	Number of of Homes	Number of beds provided for		
		Maternity	Others	Totals
Homes first registered during the year.	1	—	11	11
Homes whose registrations were withdrawn during the year.	2	—	6	6
Homes on the register at the end of the year.	10	9	104	113

Private Nursing Homes in Cheltenham still provide a most valuable addition to the accommodation available for sick persons.

Many of the homes provide mainly for old persons and help in no small way to solve a problem which yearly becomes more difficult.

Visits were paid to all Nursing Homes on two or more occasions during the year.

REMOVAL TO SUITABLE PREMISES OF PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION

(National Assistance Act, 1948 Sec. 47 and Amendment Act October, 1951)

Two old persons were removed to Part III accommodation under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act.

In one case an aged lady was living alone in insanitary conditions and confined to bed with a chronic illness. She could not look after herself and there was no one who could do so. She was offered hospital accommodation but refused to accept it and in her own interest had to be removed under a Court order. She died in hospital about a week later.

In the second case the circumstances were exactly the same. An aged lady living alone in very insanitary conditions and confined to bed had to be removed to hospital. She also died soon after admission.

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

The following examinations for the purpose of employment were carried out during the year :—

<i>Purpose of Examinations</i>	<i>Numbers Examined</i>	
	<i>Borough</i>	<i>County</i>
Superannuation Act, 1937 and 1953 and National Health Service (Superannuation)	104	109
Candidates for admission to Teachers Training College	—	45
Candidates for Employment as Teachers	—	16
Reports on Corporation Employees Prolonged Sick Leave, etc.	1	—
	105	170
Total examinations	275	

Total examinations carried out during 1956 amounted to 201.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

To the Chairman and Members of the School Medical Sub-Committee

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the School Health Service for the year 1957.

The routine work of the School Health Service has continued throughout a year in which none of the many services provided has been given undue prominence by the occurrence of any untoward events, a result entirely in keeping with the objects of a preventive medical service. The statistical assessment of the nutritional standards of the school children was very satisfactory, only 0.3% out of a school population of 11,203, failing to come up to the normal standard. It is interesting to reflect that the inauguration of the School Health Service some 50 years ago was accelerated by a report that 40% of recruits called up for army service had to be rejected because of malnutrition. The high standard of health enjoyed by our school children today should not be taken for granted merely because those conditions would not be tolerated by modern society.

The absence of any serious infectious disease throughout the school population reflects the healthy environment and resistance of the present day school child compared with his counterpart at the beginning of the century. Not one school child was notified as suffering from respiratory tuberculosis during the year. There were no cases of poliomyelitis. Much time and effort has been devoted to vaccination against the latter disease, the only limitation being the supply of vaccine which, we are informed, will be considerably increased in the near future.

The attack on the infestation rate has been intensified during the year and some success has been achieved by a decrease in the number of children found infested. I have had considerable help in this matter from Inspector Hammer of the N.S.P.C.C., who has co-operated with us in dealing with some of the worst offenders.

The school dental service has continued to operate effectively during the year and we are indeed fortunate in having two full time dentists and dental attendants. By comparison with other Authorities, we are now providing a reasonably adequate service for the school children of the town.

I would conclude this short introduction by expressing my appreciation once again of the continued support I have received from the Chairman and Members of the School Medical Sub-Committee. Likewise the co-operation of Mr. Simmonds, the Borough Education Officer and his staff together with the assistance so willingly given by head teachers, which has been indispensable to the efficient administration of the School Health Service in the town. My sincere thanks are again due to all the members of my own medical, nursing and clerical staff for their loyalty and support throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

T. O. P. D. LAWSON,

School Medical Officer.

School Medical Inspections

The routine medical inspections of school children have continued during 1957 and 4,075 children were examined throughout the year. 1,024 of these were of the 12 and 17 year age group and are included under the heading of "additional periodic inspections."

Children are examined :—

- (a) on entry for the first time to a maintained school;
- (b) during the year in which they are 8 years old;
- (c) after entry to a secondary school when they are 12 years old and
- (d) in the last year of their attendance at a secondary school.

These examinations are full routine medical inspections.

In addition, older pupils are examined before they leave school at the higher age groups in Pates Grammar School for Girls and the Boys' Grammar School and the Technical High School.

As a result of these inspections, 464 pupils were found to have defective vision (excluding squint) and where necessary were referred to the Eye Specialist. A further 436 children were found to be suffering from other defects or diseases requiring treatment, and the necessary action was taken in all cases. The number of defects requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring treatment was 1,271 and the children concerned were kept under special observation during the year. This latter group of course, includes very many minor defects which may be remedied spontaneously and never require treatment. They are kept under observation merely as a precautionary measure. This is of course the main purpose of the routine medical inspection, to prevent the minor defect becoming a major one.

The school population was 11,203 at the end of 1957 and every child has an up-to-date school medical record.

Special School Medical Inspections

These inspections cover children examined other than at a routine medical inspection for some special reason. During 1957, 1,075 children were examined at these inspections, and the appropriate action taken.

Re-Inspections

Re-inspections have been held each term in all schools in the Borough, when children who had previously been noted at routine or special medical inspections to be in need of further observation and advice, were seen by the School Medical Officers.

During 1957, 193 children were examined at these inspections.

TABLE I

**MEDICAL INSPECTION OF PUPILS ATTENDING MAINTAINED
PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS
(Including Special Schools)**

A. Periodic Medical Inspections.

Age Groups inspected and number of children examined
in each :—

Entrants—(4-6 yrs.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1082
8 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	1010
Leavers (14 years)	...	...	...	...	...	...	959

						Total	...	...	3051
						Additional Periodic Inspections (12 and 17 yrs.)	...	...	1024

						Grand Total	4075
--	--	--	--	--	--	-------------	-----	-----	------

B. Other Inspections.

Number of Special Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	1075
Number of Re-Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	193

						Total	1268
--	--	--	--	--	--	-------	-----	-----	------

C. Number of Individual Pupils found at Periodic Medical Inspections to require Treatment (excluding Dental Diseases and Infestation with Vermin.)

Age Groups Inspected				For defective vision (excluding squint)	For any of the other conditions recorded in Table III	Total Individual pupils
Entrants	...	...	...	37	137	167
8 years	...	...	...	106	126	224
Leavers	...	...	...	148	79	220
Total	...	...	...	291	342	611
Other Periodic Inspections				173	94	250
Grand Total				464	436	861

D. Classification of the Physical Condition of Pupils inspected during the year in the age groups recorded in Table IA.

Age Groups			Pupils Inspected	Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory	
				No.	%	No.	%
Entrants	...	...	1082	1077	99.5	5	0.5
8 years	...	...	1010	1009	99.9	1	0.1
Leavers	...	...	959	956	99.7	3	0.3
Additional Periodic Inspections			1024	1021	99.7	3	0.3
Total			4075	4063	99.7	12	0.3

TABLE II

Infestation with Vermin

(1)	Total number of examinations in the schools by the school nurses or other authorised persons	27,367
(2)	Total number of individual pupils found to be infested	274
(3)	Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54 (2) Education Act, 1944) ...	34
(4)	Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued (Section 54 (3) Education Act, 1944) ...	—

Increased efforts have been made during the year to reduce the number of children found infested with vermin. Examinations in the schools were increased by over 2,000 and cleansing notices were issued where necessary. As a result there has been an appreciable improvement in the infestation rate and steps are being taken to ensure that it is maintained.

TABLE III

A. Return of Defects found by Medical Inspection during the year.

Defect or Disease	Periodic Inspections				TOTAL (including all other age groups inspected)	
	Entrants		Leavers		Requiring Treat- ment	Requiring Observa- tion
	Requiring Treat- ment	Requiring Observa- tion	Requiring Treat- ment	Requiring Observa- tion		
Skin	12	28	11	17	54	90
Eyes						
(a) Vision	37	17	148	6	464	59
(b) Squint	32	5	8	—	65	11
(c) Other	4	4	3	3	20	16
Ears						
(a) Hearing	4	33	4	18	24	99
(b) Otitis Media ...	2	13	2	3	11	26
(c) Other	2	2	3	1	11	5
Nose or Throat ...	31	136	6	17	63	248
Speech	7	10	2	1	24	21
Lymphatic Glands ...	1	40	—	5	2	75
Heart	1	19	1	20	2	70
Lungs	12	52	1	19	19	127
Developmental						
(a) Hernia	4	2	—	1	7	4
(b) Other	—	14	3	13	5	57
Orthopaedic						
(a) Posture	—	5	2	20	8	46
(b) Feet	13	11	19	10	57	40
(c) Other	13	23	6	20	40	96
Nervous System						
(a) Epilepsy	5	2	6	2	14	13
(b) Other	—	5	1	5	2	24
Psychological						
(a) Development ...	—	9	—	7	4	35
(b) Stability	—	5	1	4	4	22
Abdomen	—	8	—	2	6	24
Other	4	27	2	13	13	63

B. Special Inspections

Defect or Disease	Special Inspections	
	Requiring Treatment	Requiring Observation
Skin	36	12
Eyes		
(a) Vision	33	10
(b) Squint	4	1
(c) Other	23	10
Ears		
(a) Hearing	33	39
(b) Otitis Media	12	13
(c) Other	18	9
Nose or Throat	57	105
Speech	14	19
Lymphatic Glands	6	51
Heart	1	37
Lungs	9	67
Developmental		
(a) Hernia	4	3
(b) Other	8	29
Orthopaedic		
(a) Posture	6	13
(b) Feet	14	4
(c) Other	24	26
Nervous System		
(a) Epilepsy	16	11
(b) Other	—	9
Psychological		
(a) Development	11	18
(b) Stability	13	22
Abdomen	3	14
Other	116	61

TABLE IV

**Treatment of Pupils attending maintained Primary and Secondary Schools
(Including Special Schools)**

GROUP 1. Eye Diseases, Defective Vision and Squint.

		<i>Number of Cases dealt with</i>	
		<i>By the</i>	<i>Authority Otherwise</i>
External and other, excluding errors of refraction and squint		50	6
Errors of Refraction (including squint)		—	681
		—	—
Total		50	687
		—	—
No. of Pupils for whom spectacles were prescribed ...			582

GROUP 2. Diseases and Defects of Ear, Nose and Throat

						<i>Number of Cases treated</i>	
						<i>By the</i>	<i>Otherwise</i>
						<i>Authority</i>	
Received operative treatment :—							
(a)	for disease of the ear	...	...	...	...	—	14
(b)	for adenoids and chronic tonsillitis	...	...	...	...	—	175
(c)	for other nose and throat conditions	...	...	...	...	—	100
Received other forms of treatment						69	23
						—	—
						69	312
						—	—
Total number of pupils in schools who are known to have been provided with hearing aids.							
(a)	in 1957	...	...	...	...	2	3
(b)	in previous years	...	...	...	...	—	4

GROUP 3. Orthopædic and Postural Defects

						<i>By the</i>	<i>Otherwise</i>
						<i>Authority</i>	
Number of pupils known to have been treated at Clinics or outpatients' departments							
						140	182

GROUP 4. Diseases of the Skin (excluding uncleanliness, for which see Table II).

						<i>Number of Cases treated, or under treatment during the year by the Authority</i>	
Ringworm	(i)	Scalp	...	...	...	—
	(ii)	Body	...	...	...	12	
Scabies	...	...	...	...	...	5	
Impetigo	...	...	...	...	...	45	
Other skin diseases	...	...	...	...	...	58	
						—	
Total						120	
						—	

GROUP 5. Child Guidance Treatment

Number of Cases treated in the Authority's Child Guidance Clinics						80	
---	--	--	--	--	--	----	--

GROUP 6. Speech Therapy

Number of Cases treated by the Authority						135	
--	--	--	--	--	--	-----	--

GROUP 7. Other Treatment Given.

					<i>Number of Cases treated By the Authority</i>
(a)	Miscellaneous Minor Ailments	...			4432
(b)	Pupils who received convalescent treatment under School Health Service arrangements	...			8
(c)	Pupils who received B.C.G. Vaccination	...	...	...	289
(d)	Other than (a) (b) and (c) above (specify)				
1.	U.V.L. Treatment	...	...		46
2.	Anaemia	...	...	...	3
3.	Chest	...	...	...	10
4.	Debility	...	...	...	32
Total					4820

The above tables demonstrate the wide range of examinations carried out, the diversity of defects found and the treatment given appropriate to each case. In all cases, treatment is arranged through the child's own family doctor, unless he wishes these arrangements to be made by the School Medical Officer, in which case a medical report is sent to him. The only exception is in cases of defects of vision which are referred direct by the School Medical Officer to the appropriate specialist. The general nutritional standard of the school children remains very satisfactory. Out of a total of 4,075 children examined, only 0.3% were found to be below the standard to be expected among school children.

Special attention is given to these children with a view to improving their general health, and so enabling them to obtain in as full measure as possible, the benefits of the education provided.

It is encouraging to note the number of parents who attend routine medical inspections with their children and the co-operation we receive from them.

Minor Ailments Clinics

These clinics which are well attended, are held on three afternoons per week in the Central Clinic. A medical officer is in attendance at each session so that as well as treating minor ailments, these clinics give opportunity for the mother to bring a child along if she desires to consult the doctor on any matter concerning her child's health.

Additional sessions conducted by one of the school nurses, are held once per week at Whaddon, Elmfield, Lynworth and St. Paul's Schools. During the school holidays, clinics are held each morning during the week at the Central Clinic.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES**Poliomyelitis**

No case of poliomyelitis was notified among school children in the town during the year.

Diphtheria

The school population continues to be completely free of diphtheria as in fact does the whole town. There has been a further increase in the number of children immunised and the school population is well protected against the disease.

Other Infectious Diseases

Total notifications of infectious diseases received in respect of school children are given below :—

<i>Measles</i>	<i>Diphtheria</i>	<i>Scarlet Fever</i>	<i>Whooping Cough</i>	<i>Polio</i>
312	Nil	27	31	Nil

Tuberculosis

The following notifications of tuberculosis in children of age groups 5-15 yrs. have been received during the year :—

					<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Pulmonary	—	—	—
Non-Pulmonary	—	2	2

It will be noted that no cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified among school children in the 5-15 year age group throughout the year. There were two cases of the non-respiratory type.

All the measures outlined in previous reports for the prevention and early detection of tuberculosis continue in operation and I would again express my appreciation of the help I receive from Dr. F. J. D. Knights, Chest Physician to the North Gloucestershire Chest Clinics, and Dr. J. B. W. Hayward, Director of the Mass Radiography Unit, S.W. Regional Hospital Board.

B.C.G. Vaccination

The following table shows details of the Tuberculin Testing and Vaccination Scheme during 1957. B.C.G. Vaccination has been available to all school children attending Local Authority schools in Cheltenham since 1954.

No. of Schools	Invited	Accepted	Tuberculin Tested	No. Positive	No. Negative	% Positive	NOT Vaccin- ated	Vaccin- ated
10	962	375	368	59	309	16.0	—	309

This shows an acceptance rate of 39% and compared with 43% in 1956, these figures could be doubled with advantage.

Physiotherapy

A physiotherapy clinic is held on two days per week. Children are referred by the School Medical Officer from the routine school medical inspections or from minor ailments clinics. Treatment consists of graduated exercises and ultra violet light. Progress is watched and the children are re-inspected at school.

Recuperative Holidays

We are indebted to the Cheltenham Rotary Club for generously providing a free fortnight's holiday for Cheltenham schoolboys at Weston-super-Mare.

The boys selected by the school medical officers, are convalescent or debilitated children, whose parents would not be able otherwise to provide them with a recuperative holiday by the sea. The boys stay at the Rotary Boys House where a happy and healthy holiday, with good food and regular hours, does much to restore them to their normal vigour. Travelling expenses are also provided by the Rotary Club.

The Cheltenham Rotary Club has been providing these holidays for schoolboys in the town since 1928 and up to four boys per month can be sent to Weston. On behalf of the School Medical Committee, I would like to express our sincere thanks for this very fine example of "Service Above Self" and couple with it the gratitude of many parents in the town.

School Dental Service

Mr. A. W. McCarthy, L.D.S., and Mr. A. J. Lane, L.D.S., School Dental Officers, have supplied the following statistics covering the work of the School Dental Service during the year.

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT CARRIED OUT BY THE AUTHORITY.

(1) Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers :—					
(a)	At Periodic Inspections	...	...	...	8427
(b)	As Specials	...	...	...	627
				Total	9054
(2)	Number found to require treatment	...	...	...	6061
(3)	Number offered treatment	...	...	...	4470
(4)	Number actually treated	...	...	...	2250
(5)	Attendances made by pupils for treatment	...	...	...	4736
(6)	Half days devoted to : Periodic (School) Inspection	...	...	...	70
	General Anaesthetics	...	...	...	62
	Treatment	...	...	...	802
				Total	934
(7)	Fillings : Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	2329
	Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	101
				Total	2430
(8)	Number of teeth filled : Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	2071
	Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	99
				Total	2170
(9)	Extractions : Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	829
	Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	2156
				Total	2985
(10)	Administrations of general anaesthetics for extraction	...	...	...	1663

(11)	Orthodontics					
	(a)	Cases commenced during year	...	...	...	36
	(b)	Cases carried forward from previous year			...	28
	(c)	Cases completed during the year	...	...	...	25
	(d)	Cases discontinued during the year			...	8
	(e)	Pupils treated with appliances	...	...	...	45
	(f)	Removable appliances fitted	...	...	...	53
	(g)	Fixed appliances fitted	...	...	...	—
	(h)	Total attendances	...	...	...	250
(12)	Number of pupils supplied with artificial dentures					27
(13)	Other operations :					
		Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	1252
		Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	39
						—
		Total	...			1291

The School Dental Service has continued to play a valuable part in the Health Services of the Borough throughout the year. Although the number of pupils inspected is less than in the previous year, this is due to an increase in the acceptance rate for treatment, a very welcome sign. This in turn has meant more time spent in the surgery and less in dental inspections in the schools. Nevertheless, every school in the town has had at least one dental inspection during the year and this can be considered an adequate service. The acceptance rate of 50% is not high, but many parents elect to take their children to their own dental practitioner when advised by the School Dental Officer that treatment is necessary. The purpose of the school dental inspection is thus fulfilled by bringing to the notice of the parent, the necessity for treatment. It would be very satisfactory if we could be sure that all parents took advantage of the advice offered to them. Unfortunately, in some cases, where treatment is most needed, it is persistently refused.

Child Guidance Clinic

Children requiring child guidance treatment are seen by Dr. H. S. Coulsting, Medical Director at the Cheltenham, Gloucester and County Child Guidance Clinic in the town.

Speech Therapy

During the year the work started in 1956 has been consolidated concentrating on reducing the waiting list. The same five centres have been used and attendance has been good, except during the time when influenza was prevalent.

A large number of young infants and pre-school children have been referred and have been treated by an advisory service. The children and parents have been seen every three months and advice given on the best way to help the child at home. With the school children this is accompanied by school visits and discussion with the Head and Class Teachers. Results have been satisfactory and in most cases regular Speech Therapy has not been necessary.

Student Health Visitors have visited the Clinics on several occasions during the year.

The following is an analysis of the work carried out during the year.

Number of Clinics held	...	...	...	...	...	356
Number of Sessions for School Visiting, Clerical, etc.	...					96
Number of Consultations	...	...	...	...	...	112
Number of Treatments given	...	...	...	...	...	1,813
Number of Children admitted	...	...	...	...	...	66
Number of Children discharged	...	...	...	...	...	48
Number of Children on Register, 31st December, 1957	...					100

The Number of Children Discharged were Classified as follows :—

	Stammer		Stammer and Dyslalia		Dyslalia		Cleft Palate		Other Disorders		Total
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	
Provisionally Cured	1	1	2	—	12	13	1	—	—	—	30
Much Improved	5	1	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	1	12
Slightly Improved Unco-operative	—	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	4
No Improvement	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Left District and School	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	2
TOTAL	6	3	2	—	19	15	1	—	1	1	48

Employment of Children and Young Persons

During the year, 128 school children were examined as to fitness for employment before or after school hours and the necessary certificate was granted in each case. The standard of fitness among Cheltenham school children is such that it is exceptional if a certificate of fitness has to be refused to an applicant.

These children are kept under medical observation and there has never been any evidence that the part-time employment has been in any way detrimental to their physical or mental welfare.

All children leaving school are examined and advised in the light of their known medical histories as to any type of work for which they may have been found to be physically unsuitable and good liaison has been maintained with the Youth Employment Officer in this respect.

Handicapped Children

In accordance with the requirements of the Handicapped Pupils and School Health Service Regulations, 1945, 62 pupils have been examined or re-examined during 1957 for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not they are suffering from a disability of the mind or body and if the disability is such as to fall within a category requiring special educational treatment as prescribed by the Regulations. Of the pupils examined during 1957 :—

- 23 have been ascertained to be educationally sub-normal.
- 2 have been ascertained to be physically handicapped.
- 6 have been reported to the Local Authority under the Mental Deficiency Acts.
- 7 were found to have no disability.
- 16 were found to be suitable for education in an ordinary school
- 6 were found to require supervision after leaving school.
- 1 has been ascertained to be delicate.
- 1 has been ascertained to be an epileptic.

Conclusion

The report of the work of the School Health Service for 1957 shows an expansion in nearly every service providing for the health and welfare of the schoolchild. Every year brings new methods for the prevention of disease and these are brought into operation whenever their effectiveness has been proved. Next year will see a further extension of the Poliomyelitis Vaccination programme to include the School Health Service, when every child between the ages of 6 months and 15 years will be eligible for vaccination and as a result it is hoped that ultimately, paralytic poliomyelitis will become as rare as diphtheria among school-children everywhere.

It is not possible in this report to detail the results of 50 years of the School Health Service, but it can be said that schoolchildren today compared with those of 50 years ago are not only healthier and better nourished, they are also taller and heavier in every age group. Quite apart from the prevention and virtual eradication of many diseases and the consequent saving of child life, this is an achievement of which every Education Authority may be justly proud.

Environmental Hygiene

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND MANAGER OF THE PUBLIC ABATTOIR, 1957

*To His Worship The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of
Cheltenham.*

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the work carried out in the Chief Public Health Inspector's Department during the year 1957.

There has been a considerable increase in the number of visits and inspections made, these totalling 22,060, as compared with 18,015 last year, the advent of new legislation being a contributing factor.

218 samples of various food and drugs were taken for analysis during the year, five being adversely reported upon by the Public Analyst. Several samples of tinned Australian and Chinese frozen whole egg taken towards the end of the year proved to be infected and, in view of the number of successive samples that were unsatisfactory, the Analyst's reports on these imported foods were sent to the Ministry of Health.

The Public Health Committee continued to make Closing and Demolition Orders on unfit houses and basements, the rate at which they were dealt with being governed by the number of houses made available for Slum Clearance. At the beginning of the year there were 100 families living in condemned property awaiting rehousing. At the end the outstanding total had been reduced to 76, the number of families rehoused from unfit properties during this period being 66.

In December, 1956, the Housing Committee decided to recommence their policy of buying and reconditioning houses upon which Demolition and Closing Orders were contemplated or had been made and on which the owners were unable to carry out the necessary works to render the premises fit. This scheme has many advantages in dealing with individual unfit houses which, together with unfit basements, constitute Cheltenham's chief housing problem. Where the site is suitable and the essential fabric sound, homes can be provided with a life of 25 to 30 years in areas for which there is a great demand in close proximity to shops and other facilities, and at far less cost than the average post-war Council house.

Next year it is hoped to make a start on a pilot scheme of several selected houses which, upon completion of reconditioning, will be available for the Committee's inspection, together with an analysis of the costs.

The Rent Act, 1957, came into force during the year and the Inspectors have made many visits in response to applications for Certificates of Disrepair and their cancellation.

A survey under the provisions of the Clean Air Act of all industrial and commercial furnaces was carried out during the year and smoke observations continue to be made on factories found to be causing air pollution.

It is the primary policy of the Public Health Committee to ascertain the type, extent and distribution of atmospheric pollution in Cheltenham, whilst dealing with the isolated industrial premises from which excessive pollution has been emitted. In due time attention will have to be directed to domestic chimneys and the selection of an area as a nucleus for a smokeless zone. This, however, will require inspection of all houses

and fireplaces within the area and will, in addition, involve this authority in considerable expense in replacing old grates with those suitable for burning smokeless fuel.

I am pleased to record that the chief offending installation in the centre of the town was, toward the end of the year converted to oil burning ; this has prevented a great deal of pollution in the central area.

The number of animals killed at the Public Abattoir amounted to 25,818, all of which were subjected to a thorough inspection by the full-time Meat Inspector. The quantity of meat and organs condemned was 21 tons, 10 cwts., 2 qrs., considerably less than the previous year, which is indicative of the high quality of meat passing through the Abattoir.

It was a very disturbing feature during the year to find that carcasses and offal coming into the town had not been subjected to meat inspection. Investigations revealed that it was a physical impossibility for the Inspector of the Rural District concerned to deal with the number of carcasses requiring inspection in his area, many of which were from animals killed during the weekend. It is difficult to believe that, at the present time, there is no legal obligation for meat intended for human consumption to be subject to inspection and one can but hope that legislation will soon be brought in making such meat inspection compulsory.

The preparation of the scheme for the repair and modernisation of the Public Abattoir continues and, whilst work has not yet commenced, plans and specifications have been drawn up and should be implemented early next year.

The scheme is now in progress for the installation of a new disinfecter on ground adjacent to the Abattoir. A great deal of time and fuel is wasted in stoking the large boiler to the existing disinfecter which is 66 years old. When the work is completed a constant steam supply will be available from the Abattoir as and when required for disinfection purposes.

Much progress has been made in the field of environmental hygiene and the public now take for granted a safe water supply as they do a food supply that is free from disease and gross contamination. They are also beginning to appreciate the diseases and conditions that result from living in a heavily polluted atmosphere, but it will undoubtedly require many years of constant effort to achieve in our towns and cities air as pure as nature intended it should be.

There have been no changes in the Inspectorate staff during the year. A new Articled Pupil was appointed following the qualification of Mr. T. W. Camsey who is now serving in H.M. Forces. This system of pupilship for a period of four years is undoubtedly the best method of recruitment for the Public Health Inspector.

I should like to thank the Chairmen and Members of the Public Health and Housing Committees for their confidence and support and to express my appreciation to the other Chief Officers for their advice and co-operation.

It is with pleasure that I record the loyal support given to me by my Deputy, Mr. A. L. Jones, the Inspectors and other members of the staff, whose work is summarised in this Report.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. F. URSELL, D.P.A., F.A.P.H.I.

SUMMARY OF VISITS

This section of the Report sets out the number of inspections and visits that have been made regarding the various aspects of environmental hygiene. They total 22,060 for the year, the increase being attributed to visits in connection with smoke observation and atmospheric pollution, and the inspection of housing accommodation, particularly with reference to the Rent Act and the issue of Certificates of Disrepair and the growing problem of houses let-in-lodgings.

TABLE I

General Sanitation

Water Supply	116
Drainage	2,142
Stables and Piggeries	21
Offensive Trades	63
Fried Fish Shops	34
Common Lodging House	7
Houses Let in Lodgings	123
Tents, Vans and Sheds	193
Factories	465
Outworkers	37
Bakehouses	82
Public Conveniences	57
Theatres	2
Refuse Collection	527
Refuse Disposal	9
Pest Control	300
Smoke Observation and Atmospheric Pollution	132
Marine Stores	20
Schools	38
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	491
Interviews	545
Total	5,404

TABLE II

Housing

<i>Under Public Health Acts:</i>		
No. of Houses Inspected	...	677
Re-Visits ... ..	...	713
<i>Under Housing Acts:</i>		
No. of Houses Inspected	...	1,045
Re-Visits ... ..	...	840
<i>Certificates of Disrepair:</i>		
No. of Visits ... ..	...	101
<i>Overcrowding:</i>		
No. of Houses Inspected	...	16
Re-Visits ... ..	...	11
<i>Verminous Premises:</i>		
No. of Houses Inspected	...	23
Re-Visits ... ..	...	1
Miscellaneous Housing Visits ... ..	...	1,129
Total		4,556

TABLE III

Food Hygiene, etc.*Inspection of Meat:*Additional Visits for Meat Inspection (Full-time
Meat Inspector at Abattoir)

... 70

Visits to Other Premises ... 14

Food and Drugs Act:

School Canteens ... 80

Butchers ... 194

Fishmongers and Poulterers ... 50

Grocers ... 235

Greengrocers and Fruiterers ... 161

Dairies and Milkshops ... 52

Ice Cream Premises ... 170

Food Preparing Premises ... 173

Restaurants and Hotel Kitchens ... 343

Licensed Premises ... 67

Market Stalls ... 88

Street Vendors' and Hawkers' Carts ... 23

Food Inspection and Condemnation Visits ... 294*Visits in Connection with Sampling:*

Milk—Bacteriological ... 49

Food and Drug Samples ... 199

Miscellaneous Food Visits ... 185

Total ... 2,447

TABLE IV

Infectious Diseases and Disinfestation*Disinfestation:*

No. of Premises Treated ... 160

No. of Articles Treated ... 336

Infectious Diseases:

No. of Premises Fumigated ... 10

No. of Articles Disinfected ... 374

Removal of Articles for Destruction:

No. of Visits ... 283

Special Visits ... 1,184

No. of Re-Visits ... 431

Total ... 2,278

TABLE V

Rodent Control*Rats and Mice:*

No. of Visits for Inspection ... 1,410

No. of Visits for Treatment ... 3,579

Other Pests:

No. of Visits for Inspection ... 255

No. of Visits for Treatment ... 309

Total ... 5,553

TABLE VI

Other Visits*Shops Act:*

Closing Hours	...	...	...	...	...	608
Employment of Young Persons	...	...	...	...	...	8
Welfare	...	...	...	...	...	308
<i>Merchandise Marks Act</i>	...	...	...	...	...	107
<i>Rag Flock and other Filling Materials Act</i>	...	...	...	...	...	9
<i>Pet Animals Act</i>	...	...	...	...	...	9
<i>Removal of Unsound Food:—No. of Visits</i>	...	...	...	...	...	222
<i>Waste Food Order</i>	...	...	...	...	...	51
Total						1,322
Total of Tables I, II, III, IV, V and VI						22,060

NOTICES SERVED

During the year the following notices were served and/or complied:—

	<i>Informal Notices</i>		<i>Formal Notices</i>	
	<i>Served</i>	<i>Complied</i>	<i>Served</i>	<i>Complied</i>
Public Health Act, 1936	178	172	28	30
Housing Acts, 1936 and 1957	9	19	5	5
Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948	24	25	—	—
Shops Act, 1950	5	2	—	—
Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954	—	3	2	3
Food and Drugs Act, 1955	—	1	—	—
Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955	25	30	—	—
	241	252	35	38

The Notices complied with include those outstanding from the previous year.

Information in Regard to Land Charges

Requests for information under the Land Charges Act were received and dealt with during the year in respect of 1,496 Official Searches.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 & 1948.

The following tables shew the work carried out during the year: —

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to Health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of	
		Inspection	Written Notices
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by the Local Authority	43	57	4
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	325	290	18
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	15	18	2
Totals ...	383	465	24

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	3	1
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)		
(a) insufficient	5	4
(b) unsuitable or defective	16	9
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—
Other offences against the Act (Not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—
Totals ...	24	14

3. Outwork—Sections 110 and 111.

Nature of Work	No. of outworkers in list required by Sec. 110 (i) (c)		Section 111 Notices Served
	February List	August List	
Wearing apparel (Making, etc.)	30	28	—
Curtains and Furniture			
Hangings	1	1	—
Cardboard Box Making ...	2	2	—

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are a few offensive trades within the Borough, but the one productive of most nuisance over a long period of years was the hide and skin yard, situated in a busy section of the town centre on which I reported last year.

The premises have been kept under constant supervision and, whilst the proprietors undoubtedly did their best to reduce its nuisance value, the time was eventually reached when a large expenditure of money was necessary to comply with the regulations. The company, therefore, decided to move to new premises and it is most gratifying to note that, following our representations, the factory has now been sold for other development, part to be taken for road widening.

The original business has been transferred to new buildings on a comparatively isolated site and is being conducted under most satisfactory conditions.

On the following pages are shown photographs of this hide and skin business, giving an idea of the site as it existed until a few months ago, together with views of the new factory.



Built over 100 years ago, this hide and skin yard, situated within a short distance of the town centre, has now been closed and demolished. These photographs were taken from the public pathway.





The same business transferred to new premises erected on a well-spaced industrial site. The modern buildings are constructed of reinforced concrete and asbestos. Adequate parking and unloading facilities are provided off the road.



SMOKE ABATEMENT

A survey has been carried out of all industrial and commercial furnaces in the Town. Records were made of details of boilers, mode of stoking, fuels used, type of draught provision and height of chimneys and as to whether or not grit arrestors were fitted.

A further deposit gauge was brought into use on 1st June, 1957, on a site to the North of the Gas Works. The two existing gauges continue to be stationed, one in the town centre and the other to the South West of the Gas Works. As was suggested in last year's report the new gauge gave a more complete picture in relation to pollution from the Gas Works. The average rate of deposit throughout the seven months June to December at this gauge was 17.35 tons per square mile per month, almost double that recorded at the town centre (9.32 tons) and considerably more than the average for the gauge at Gloucester Road Schools (10.54 tons).

Early in the year nuisance arose from a tip of carbon black at the Gas Works from which dust was blown about and sludge washed on to adjoining premises. The Gas Board were requested to seal the surface of the tip with tar and fence the perimeter of the tip.

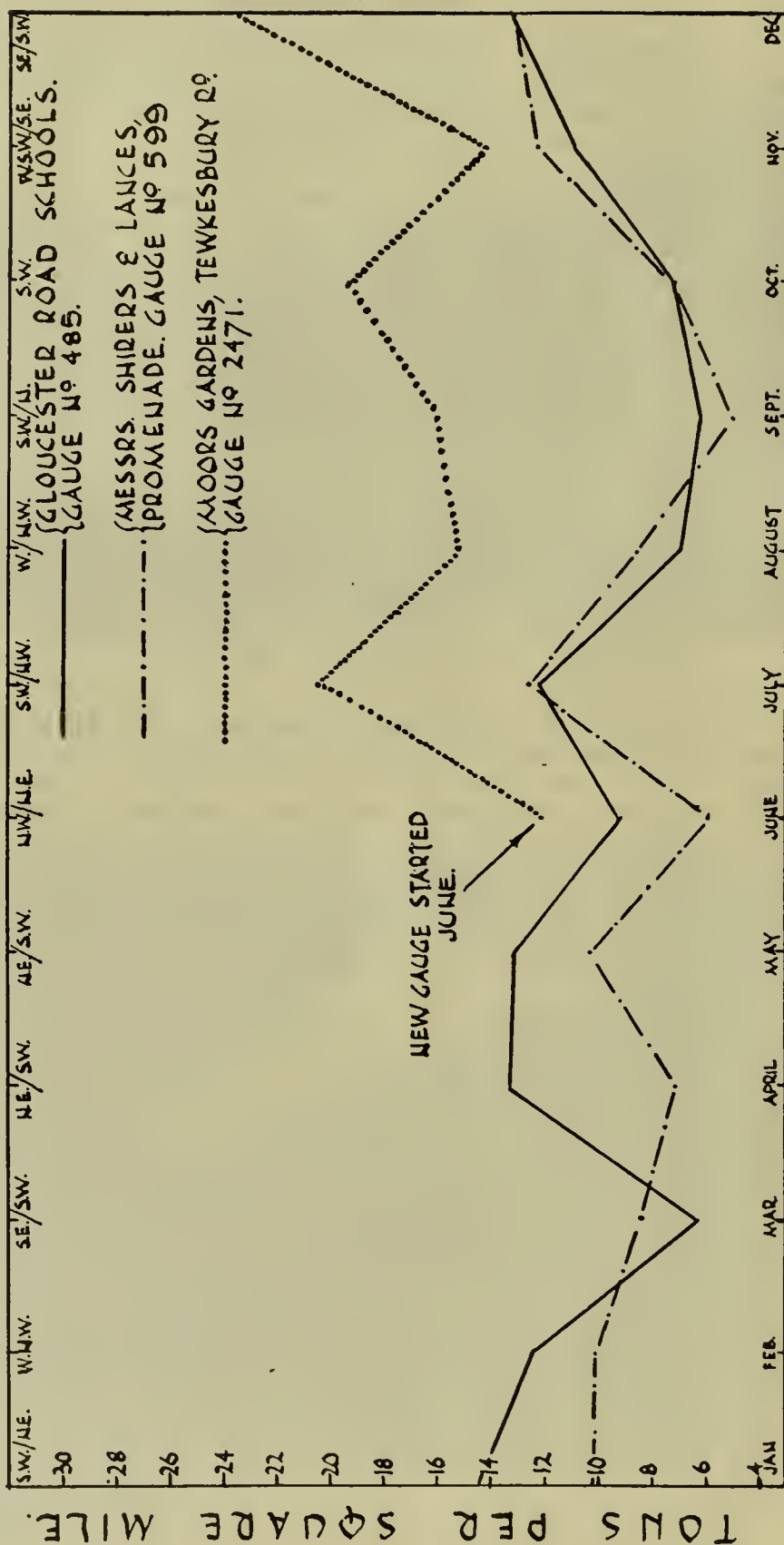
Later, in May, a petition was received, signed by 110 people, complaining of smoke, dust, grit and fumes. The wind at the time was in a North to North-Easterly direction blowing smoke and grit to nearby houses. This matter was brought to the notice of the Board, whose representatives were later interviewed on the site. A number of improvements were put in hand which would mitigate the nuisance from dust arising from coke, coal and carbon black, etc. It is quite apparent that the chief source of nuisance, i.e. the obsolete horizontal retorts, cannot be eliminated at the present time as the cost of conversion to vertical retorts approaches £500,000. It is, however, the Gas Board's intention not to replace the existing retorts as they burn out.

A large factory situated in the centre of the town was the cause of much serious air pollution. The weekly coal consumption of mixed grade was approximately 40 tons and, despite the efforts of the management and stokers, there were frequent emissions of black smoke. Regular observations were made and interviews occurred with the management and, with the implementation of the Clean Air Act, the company converted the main boilers to oil burning in October this year. This has resulted in a complete cessation of the smoke and grit emission with advantage to all concerned.

Not many complaints are now received from the public in regard to smoke nuisances. Apart from the Gas Works it is true to say that the larger proportion of such aerial pollution as now occurs over the Town originates from domestic chimneys.

DEPOSIT GAUGE ANALYSES FOR 1957

PREVAILING WINDS.



HOUSING

The Public Health Committee continued to deal with unfit premises requiring Closing and Demolition Orders. 11 Closing Orders were made in the year on basements, 1 on part of a house ; 17 houses were subjected to Closing Orders and 5 to Demolition Orders.

Progress has not been maintained at the rate originally proposed and, in October, 1957, the position was reviewed, when it was estimated that 127 houses still awaited action. The Committee decided to continue to deal with these unfit dwellings at a rate of 50 to 60 per annum. The Standing Sub-Committee view the properties in all cases and these visits have proved most valuable over a long period, serving as they do to acquaint members with the many unfit properties of low standard that still exist.

Many problems are encountered in finding suitable alternative accommodation for the people living in condemned property and this is one reason why the reconditioning of suitable houses in close proximity to the areas where these people have lived and to the amenities which they have enjoyed for so many years is strongly advocated.

The old people living in unfit houses, especially those who live alone, present many difficulties. I am convinced that every effort should be made to provide houses and small flats for old couples and single persons and that, only when such people are incapable of taking care of themselves, should they be moved to an institution.

The Housing Committee were concerned at the transmission of vermin and woodworm from slum clearance houses into new Council houses and flats. The question of fumigation with Methyl Bromide or H.C.N. was investigated and quotations were obtained from specialist firms. The cost was found to be very high, however, and, coupled with the fact that there was no residual effect from such treatment and that modern insecticides had already almost completely eradicated bug infestations, the Committee agreed to utilise a suitable residual lacquer to be applied to the timber floors of new houses. In specific cases the effects of persons moving in to new accommodation were treated well in advance of their scheduled move.

HOUSING ACTS, 1936 and 1957.**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT, 1953.**

The following action under the above Acts was taken during the year (figures for 1956 are given for comparative purposes) :—

	1956	1957
(a) Closing Orders (Basement Dwellings)	9	11
(b) Closing Orders (Parts of Houses, etc.)	1	1
(c) Closing Orders Determined	2	3
(d) Demolition Orders	13	5
(e) Clearance Orders—No. of Houses	—	—
(f) Houses Closed	21	17
(g) Demolition Orders Revoked	1	—
(h) Undertakings to render premises fit	13	2
(i) Undertakings cancelled	3	3
(j) Undertakings not to use premises for human habitation	1	2
(k) Houses demolished	8	17

Action taken during the past twelve years is as follows :—

	No. of Houses	No. of persons displaced
Houses demolished as a result of formal procedure	44	139
Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners	33	136
Houses closed except for use as stores	52	158
Parts of buildings closed	280	806
Houses made fit as a result of formal notices	98	—

NEW HOUSES

New houses completed in the Borough since June, 1945 are as follows:

	By the Council	By Private Enterprise
Up to 31st December, 1950	1,426	
During 1951	263	
„ 1952	417	
„ 1953	924	
„ 1954	539	
„ 1955	428	
„ 1956	108	
„ 1957	92	
Up to 31st December, 1957	4,197	1,300



This cellar kitchen, 7' 10" below ground level, is the home of an 83 year-old man and is a type scheduled for closure at an early date.

HOUSES LET-IN-LODGINGS

The shortage of housing accommodation has led to the use of many large houses as houses let-in-lodgings. These properties are purchased for the purpose of obtaining the maximum number of lettings. Little or no regard is given to the comfort of the tenants, only the bare essentials being provided, including second-hand furniture, washing facilities and sanitary convenience. This results, in the majority of cases, in the accommodation comprising a single room for living and sleeping purposes. A great deal of unhappiness and misery can be caused by the strain on a young couple, often with one or two small children, attempting to run a home and having to manage cooking, clothes washing and drying in a single room. The owners have, in many cases, extorted a weekly rent of £2 10s. from these unfortunate tenants.

The department has devoted a considerable amount of time to inspecting and checking these properties. A difficult position is created in the case of overcrowding where, following service of an abatement notice, the owner, without any compunction, gives the family notice to quit and they are then faced with the almost impossible task of finding alternative accommodation. The families are often newcomers to the town and have, therefore, a considerable time to wait before they can be rehoused by the Local Authority.

The legal provisions dealing with this type of letting leave a great deal to be desired.

An example was provided during the year when a large detached house in a good residential area was purchased and used as a lodging house for itinerant Irish labourers. This house had a capacity for 44 people and there were usually up to 30 present at any one time. They lived 3 to 4 in each of the large rooms and catered for themselves. The house was a constant source of trouble, not only to this department, but to the neighbourhood in general. Action was taken to provide the necessary facilities, but before this was completed, the owners closed the house and the premises were again sold.

RENT ACT, 1957

The Rent Act came into force on 6th July, 1957, and, from August onwards 27 applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received from tenants of houses having a rateable value of less than £30.

In each case an inspection is carried out for the purpose of verifying the list of defects drawn up by the tenant. Only those defects may be allowed which "ought reasonably to be remedied, having due regard to the age, character and locality of the dwelling." It is not permissible for the Local Authority to add to the list in any way, however inadequate it may be, though, of course, the Council are still in a position to deal with defects or nuisances under the existing Public Health and Housing Acts.

It will be noted that, of the 27 decisions to issue Certificates, only 6 were the subject of Undertakings by landlords to carry out works.

Many tenants are obviously incapable of taking full advantage of the protection afforded by the Act, particularly the aged and illiterate. The schedules received are often inaccurately filled in, essential items being omitted.

The Act is designed to secure a higher standard of maintenance and repair of properties, whilst giving a reasonable return, but at this stage it appears that these objectives are unlikely to be achieved.

RENT ACT, 1957*Applications for Certificates of Disrepair.*

1.	Number of applications for Certificates	...	...	...	27
2.	Number of decisions not to issue certificates	...	...	...	—
3.	Number of decisions to issue certificates	...	...	...	27
	(a) in respect of some but not all defects	...	...	...	17
	(b) in respect of all defects	...	...	...	10
4.	Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	...	...	...	6
5.	Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority under proviso to paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	...	...	...	—
6.	Number of certificates issued	...	...	...	20*

*In one case the certificate was not issued as the Landlord had completed the work required to remedy the defects by the time the Notice of Proposal to issue a Certificate was to be served.

Applications for Cancellation of Certificates.

7.	Applications by landlord to Local Authority for cancellation of certificates	...	...	...	...	...	1
8.	Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates	...	...	...	...	...	—
9.	Decisions by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenant's objection	...	...	...	...	...	—
10.	Certificates cancelled by Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	1

COMMON LODGING HOUSE

There remains one common lodging house in the Borough, which was kept under detailed surveillance during the year and has been conducted entirely satisfactorily.

It continues to serve a very useful purpose but, for the first time, there has been a notable drop throughout the year in the number of men using the premises. This can be attributed, primarily to the reduction of large-scale building operations employing Irish labour in the town and also, to the increase in the purchase of old houses that are let off in separate rooms as houses-let-in-lodgings, many people preferring the privacy of a separate room.

The owner has now provided Independent Television as well as B.B.C. in order to entertain the occupants.

The increase in the cost of running such establishments continues to rise and the charges are now 3/6d. per night, the weekly charge varying from 12/6d. to 17/6d.

CARAVAN SITES

There are 17 licensed caravan sites in the Borough with a total of 77 caravans.

These sites are subject to regular monthly inspections and, in the main, conditions have been found to be satisfactory.

In one case, however, conditions had so deteriorated that a notice was served on the site operator to carry out considerable works of improvement, but having regard to the expense involved, he was not prepared to comply with the notice. Under these circumstances the licence was not renewed.

FOOD HYGIENE

Over 2,000 visits in connection with food hygiene were carried out during the year. Many of these included premises which came under the jurisdiction of this Department for the first time last year. They include various schools and colleges, clubs and private nursing homes.

A detailed survey was also carried out of the catering facilities in the four hospitals of the Cheltenham Group that lie within the Borough boundary. Taking into account the age of the majority of these buildings the facilities provided are quite satisfactory. The provision of double sinks in the wards where washing-up of crockery is carried out is being implemented insofar as the financial position will permit.

The standard of food hygiene has greatly improved and frequent visits will continue to be made in order to ensure that this progress is maintained.

SCHOOL CANTEENS, CENTRAL KITCHENS AND DINING CENTRES

All school canteens, kitchens and dining centres were re-inspected during the year in connection with a report submitted to the Education Officer in May, 1956, which recommended various improvements to bring these premises up to the standard envisaged by the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

Particular attention was paid to the adequacy of sinks, wash-hand basins and W.C. accommodation; to means of ventilation and facilities for storage of food and refuse, etc.

In general, substantial progress has been made in the provision of new canteens or improvement of existing premises. Adequate refrigeration facilities are available in all kitchens and wash-hand basins and extra sinks have been provided wherever circumstances permit.

By the beginning of this year work of improvement and enlargement had been completed to the canteen of one large school. Facilities now include a new room-type refrigerator, the provision of new, and improvements to, double sinks and lavatory basins, tiling and floor drainage and ventilation.

Some deficiencies arise, however, from the continued retention of old buildings having only limited accommodation, but it is appreciated that the school rebuilding programme is restricted by financial considerations.

In all 26 canteens and kitchens, providing over 5,000 meals daily, were inspected. A high standard of hygiene was found to exist throughout to the credit of the staff and supervisors responsible.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION AND WASHING FACILITIES AT SCHOOLS

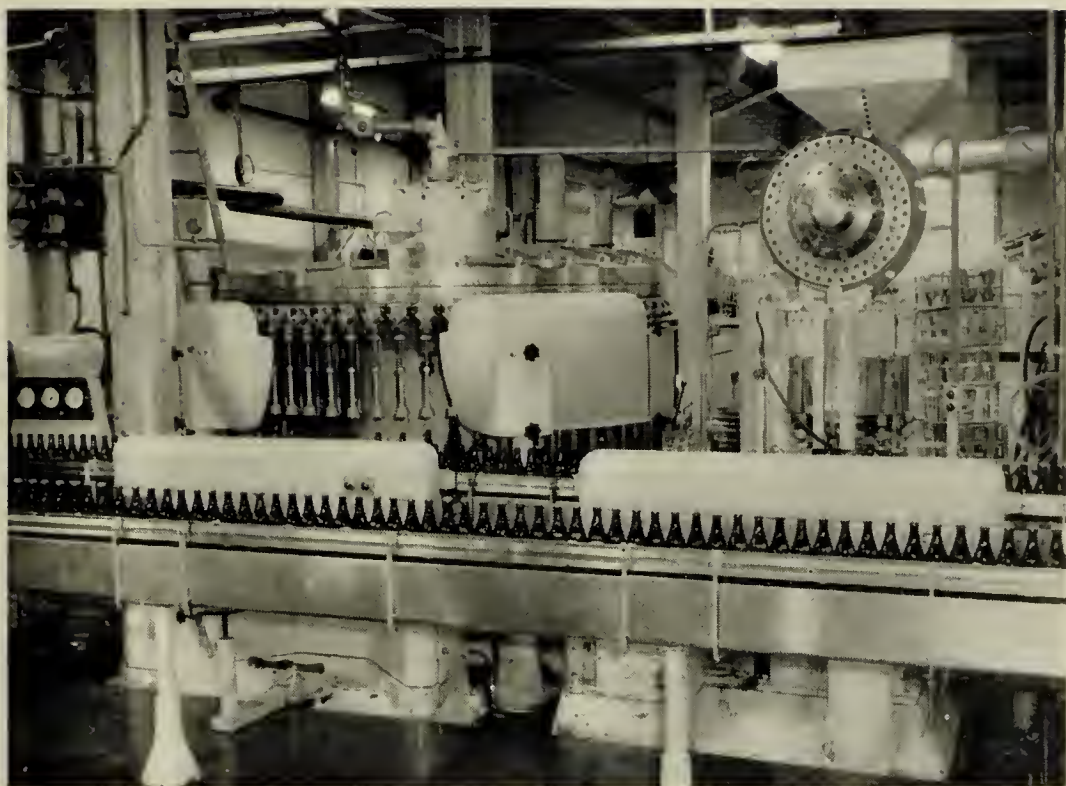
Sanitary accommodation and washing facilities were inspected at 17 schools in the Borough and, where deficiencies were found to exist, the facts were reported to the Education Officer.

FOOD SAMPLING

218 samples of a wide variety of food and drugs were taken during the year. This is slightly in excess of the Ministry's standard of three per thousand population. Only 5 were adversely reported upon by the Public Analyst and details of the action taken in connection with these are shown in the table.

An interesting case arose during the year in regard to the sale of cream buns and doughnuts. A notice on the buns described them as "Fresh Cream." There was, however, a further notice at the rear of the counter indicating that "No goods sold in the shop contain dairy cream."

Subsequent samples revealed that the cream was not fresh dairy cream, but a reconstituted cream made from butter. It was considered, therefore, that, in spite of the specific notice at the rear of the counter, the cream was not adequately defined to indicate that it was not dairy cream and representations were made to the vendor, who ceased using the description "Fresh Cream."



A section of a modern bottling plant at a local Brewery.



A new fishmonger's shop with a window to protect the products from contamination from the highway and yet afford an attractive display for the customers.

SAMPLES OF FOOD AND DRUGS SUBMITTED FOR ANALYSIS

In accordance with the Ministry of Health requirements, the following samples were taken :—

<i>Commodity</i>	<i>Formal</i>	<i>Informal</i>	<i>Commodity</i>	<i>Formal</i>	<i>Informal</i>
Almond Flavouring ...	—	1	Jam ...	2	2
Angelica ...	1	—	Jelly ...	2	—
Arrowroot ...	1	—	Lard ...	1	—
Asprin ...	—	1	Lemon Pie filling ...	—	1
Banana flavouring ...	2	—	Lemon squash ...	1	—
Beef Broth ...	1	—	Linctus ...	—	3
Beef Sausages ...	3	—	Liquid Paraffin ...	—	1
Beer (draught) ...	7	1	Licquorice Powder ...	1	—
Beer (tinned) ...	1	—	Magnesia ...	—	1
Beetroot (pickled) ...	—	1	Marzipan ...	1	1
Biscuits ...	2	—	Meat Pudding ...	—	1
Blood Mixture ...	1	—	Milk ...	40	—
Bread and Butter Slices	2	—	Milk (tinned) ...	—	2
Butter ...	4	—	Mince meat ...	—	1
Butterscotch ...	—	1	Orange drink ...	1	—
Cake Mixture ...	—	1	Pancake Mixture ...	1	—
Celery Spread ...	—	1	Peanut Butter ...	—	1
Cheese ...	1	2	Peel (mixed) ...	—	1
Cheese (grated) ...	1	—	Pepper ...	1	1
Cheese (smoked) ...	1	—	Pickles ...	1	—
Cheese Spread ...	1	2	Polonies ...	2	—
Chewing gum ...	1	—	Pork Fingers ...	1	—
Chicken Puffs ...	1	—	Pork Sausages ...	5	2
Coffee ...	2	1	Potato Crisps ...	1	—
Coffee and Chicory ...	—	1	Raisins ...	—	1
Coffee essence ...	1	—	Rice (ground) ...	1	—
Chocolate flavouring ...	—	1	Rice (flaked) ...	1	—
Chocolate sponge ...	1	—	Rice Pudding ...	1	—
Cough Tablets ...	1	—	Rock ...	1	—
Cornflour ...	—	1	Rum ...	1	—
Cream ...	3	2	Rum and Butter candy	—	2
Cream Sponge ...	1	—	Saccharin Tablets ...	—	1
Cream wafers ...	—	1	Salted Almonds ...	1	—
Dates ...	—	1	Salmon Spread ...	—	1
Doughnuts (cream) ...	2	1	Salted Peanuts ...	1	—
Emulsion ...	—	1	Sausage Meat ...	1	1
Faggots ...	2	—	Sausage and Beans ...	—	1
Figs ...	—	2	Sauce ...	1	1
Fish Cakes ...	1	—	Spice ...	—	1
Flour (Self Raising) ...	—	1	Stout ...	1	—
Fruit Drops ...	1	—	Shortening ...	1	—
Fruit Salad (tinned) ...	1	1	Smoked Salmon ...	—	1
Gelatine ...	1	—	Stuffing ...	—	1
Glace Cherries ...	1	—	Suet ...	—	1
Glucose drink ...	—	1	Tapioca ...	1	—
Glucose tablets ...	—	1	Tomatoes (tinned) ...	1	—
Gingerbread ...	—	1	Tomato Juice ...	1	—
Gin ...	2	—	Tomato Paste ...	—	1
Ground Almonds ...	1	1	Tonic ...	—	1
Halibut Oil Capsules ...	—	1	Vinegar ...	2	—
Health Salts ...	—	1	Vinegar (spiced) ...	1	—
Honey ...	1	1	Vitamin Tablets ...	1	2
Ice Cream ...	15	—	Wheat Germ ...	—	1
Icing ...	—	1	Whisky ...	1	—
Indigestion tablets ...	—	1	Yeast Tablets ...	—	1

Number of samples taken during 1957 :—

Formal ...	148
Informal ...	70
Total ...	218

FIVE SAMPLES WERE ADVERSELY REPORTED UPON BY THE PUBLIC ANALYST DURING THE YEAR

<i>Sample No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Formal or Informal</i>	<i>Analyst's Remarks</i>	<i>Action taken</i>
5	Milk	Formal	Slightly deficient in milk fat	Warning letter sent to dairyman.
19	Cream Doughnuts	Informal	Did not contain "Fresh Cream" as stated on notice in shop.	Letter sent to vendor requesting proper notice to be displayed.
22	Fruit Salad (tinned)	Informal	Weight of fruits not in order as stated on label. 23.5 per cent sugar considered low for "heavy syrup."	Letter sent to vendors.
27	Milk	Formal	12 per cent deficient in milk fat.	Proceedings authorised later withdrawn. Warning letter sent to dairyman.
126	Glucose drink	Informal	Not labelled in accordance with Regulations.	No further action.

FOREIGN BODIES IN FOOD

An increase was recorded in the number of complaints received from members of the public in regard to foreign bodies found in food, the total for the year being 25.

The largest proportion, i.e. 16 of the complaints, referred to bread or confectionery products and related to foreign bodies which, on analysis, proved to be grease, string or dirt.

Full investigations were made and the facts reported to the Public Health Committee. Warning letters were sent in 21 cases, in 3 instances no further action was taken, the complaint not being substantiated and, in 1 case of rodent excreta in bread, proceedings against the baker concerned were authorised.

It is obvious that greater care is called for in the preparation and handling of food products and particularly the storage and sale of meat pies and allied foods. Such commodities should be disposed of quickly and the possibility of old stock being sold could be largely avoided if the wrapping of the pie was conspicuously marked with the date of manufacture.

FOREIGN BODIES IN FOOD

<i>Complaints Received during 1957</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Mould in sponge cake	Warning letter to vendor.
Glass in milk bottle	Warning letter to dairyman.
Bread containing piece of coal ...	Warning letter to baker.
Maggots in bread crumbs	Warning letter to manufacturers.
Larvae in chocolate	Warning letter to manufacturers.
Bread roll containing extraneous matter	Warning letter to baker.
Foreign matter in sliced bread loaf	Warning letter to baker.
Black deposit in bread	Warning letter to baker.
Beetle in sugar	Warning letter to vendor.
Foreign matter in puff pastry ...	No action.
Mould in cream tart	Warning letter to vendor.
Cigarette end in sugar	Warning letter to vendor.
Sawdust adhering to steak	Warning letter to butcher.
Foreign matter in bread	Warning letter to baker.
Foreign matter in Vienna Loaf ...	Warning letter to baker.
Black deposits in bread	Warning letter to baker.
Currant bun containing foreign matter	Warning letter to baker.
Nail in Chelsea bun	Warning letter to baker.
Glass in milk bottle	Warning letter to dairyman.
Foreign matter in porridge oats ...	No action.
Fly in cheese	No action.
Bacon contaminated with dirt ...	Warning letter to vendor.
String in bread	Warning letter to bakers.
Stains on bread loaf	Warning letter to bakers.
Rodent excreta in bread	Proceedings against baker authorised

**PARTICULARS OF FOODSTUFFS EXAMINED AND REJECTED AS
UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION**

Tinned Foods			<i>Tins</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>cwts.</i>	<i>qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Meat ... ..	...	...	488	—	15	3	14
Fish ... ..	...	...	119	—	—	2	17
Vegetables ... ..	...	...	610	—	5	2	15
Milk ... ..	...	...	174	—	1	1	5
Fruit ... ..	...	...	997	—	12	—	9
Soup ... ..	...	...	177	—	1	2	—
Jam ... ..	...	...	17	—	—	1	4
Baby Foods ... ..	...	...	5	—	—	—	1
Syrup ... ..	...	...	1	—	—	—	2
Marmalade ... ..	...	...	4	—	—	—	8
Creamed Rice ... ..	...	...	7	—	—	—	6
Apple Pudding ... ..	...	...	1	—	—	—	1
Total ...			2,600	1	17	1	26

General				<i>Tons</i>	<i>cwts.</i>	<i>qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Meat ... ..	...	...	...	—	8	2	2
Fish ... ..	...	...	...	—	4	2	26
Bacon ... ..	...	...	...	—	—	—	7
Cheese ... ..	...	...	...	—	—	—	16
Sausages ... ..	...	...	...	—	—	1	15
Cooked Meat ... ..	...	...	...	—	—	1	15
Meat Pies ... ..	...	...	...	—	—	—	6
Poultry ... ..	...	...	...	—	—	3	13
Frozen Foods ... ..	...	...	...	—	2	3	23
Flour and Cereals ... ..	...	...	...	—	—	—	11
Dried Fruits ... ..	...	...	...	—	—	—	3
Miscellaneous ... ..	...	...	...	—	2	—	10
Total ...				1	—	1	7
Grand Total ...				2	17	3	5

ICE CREAM

Number of Ice-Cream Premises Registered at 31st December, 1957.

<i>Storage and Sale</i>	<i>Manufacture, Storage, and Sale</i>	<i>Manufacture only</i>	<i>Storage only</i>
214	8	1	1

ICE CREAM CHEMICAL EXAMINATION

<i>Ref. No.</i>	<i>Fat %</i>	<i>N.F.S. %</i>	<i>Lactose %</i>	<i>Sucrose %</i>	<i>Total Solids %</i>	<i>Preservatives</i>
208	14.22	24.78	9.51	11.29	39.01	Absent
8	11.95	25.05	6.27	14.61	37.00	Absent
9	13.99	23.45	6.11	13.15	37.44	Absent
10	12.61	23.84	5.65	15.21	36.45	Absent
11	11.99	25.22	6.17	14.67	37.21	Absent
12	9.32	26.53	5.53	14.32	35.85	Absent
13	10.63	26.88	5.82	15.22	37.51	Absent
14	9.25	25.31	5.73	13.88	34.56	Absent
54	12.95	27.55	6.74	10.10	40.50	Absent
55	13.38	22.16	5.48	12.08	35.54	Absent
56	14.06	24.81	6.64	13.35	38.87	Absent
83	10.22	26.87	5.94	13.70	37.09	Absent
84	10.57	25.98	5.54	14.69	36.35	Absent
143	11.04	25.70	7.29	16.95	36.76	Absent
148	12.98	25.26	7.52	11.61	38.24	Absent

HEALTH EDUCATION

This Department has been asked to assist in the training of Health Visitors. They have been given several lectures on various aspects of environmental and food hygiene and also accompanied the District Inspectors on their visits to unfit houses and basements, factories, common lodging houses, food premises, public abattoir and milk pasteurising plants, in order to complete their training prior to qualification.

Similar lectures were also given to students of the Ladies' College and to various Women's Organisations.

PUBLIC ABATTOIR

The number of animals killed at the Public Abattoir during the year totalled 25,818.

Many animals are being received which have reacted to a Tuberculin Test and are slaughtered for the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Altogether 70 bovines were slaughtered and in 59 cases evidence of Tubercular infection was found.

Due consideration must be given to the number of Tubercular reactors sent in by the Ministry when considering the high percentage of bovines affected with Tuberculosis as shown in the table on the following page.

The preparation of plans and specifications for the modernisation of the Abattoir to comply with present-day standards is now almost completed and it is hoped that work will be commenced early next year.

**CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART
AT CHELTENHAM PUBLIC ABATTOIR
ANNUAL SUMMARY ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1957**

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Goats	Total
Number killed	3,419	87	2,228	9,375	10,707	2	25,818
Number inspected	3,419	87	2,228	9,375	10,707	2	25,818
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci							
Whole carcasses condemned	5	4	17	10	28	—	64
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	677	19	4	106	624	—	1,460
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	19.94%	26.44%	0.94%	12.27%	6.09%	—	5.9%
Tuberculosis only :							
Whole carcasses condemned	9	4	4	—	18	—	35
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	158	37	16	—	367	—	578
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	4.88%	47.12%	0.807%	—	3.59%	—	2.37%
Cysticercosis							
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	23	—	—	—	—	—	23
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	9	—	—	—	—	—	9
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Total Weights of Meat and Organs Rejected, 1957

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Bovine								
Meat in Carcass	6	3	2	26				
Meat not in Carcass	1	18	1	23				
Organs and Viscera	5	16	3	10				
TOTAL					13	19	0	3
Ovine								
Meat in Carcass	—	5	0	2				
Meat not in Carcass	—	—	1	5				
Organs and Viscera	—	3	3	6				
TOTAL					—	9	0	13
Swine								
Meat in Carcass	2	11	1	24				
Meat not in Carcass	2	15	2	17				
Organs and Viscera	1	15	2	17				
TOTAL					7	2	1	12
TOTAL CARCASS MEAT	13	14	0	23				
TOTAL ORGANS AND VISCERA	7	16	1	5				
TOTAL CARCASS AND ORGANS	21	10	2	—	21	10	2	—

CYSTICERCUS BOVIS

Twenty-three cases of cysticercus bovis were diagnosed among cattle slaughtered at the Abattoir during 1957. The overall rate of infestation was 0.66% which is the lowest recorded for a number of years.

REGIONAL INFESTATION

	Number Infested	%
External Masseter Muscles ...	14	60.87
Internal Masseter Muscles ...	4	17.39
Heart Musculature ...	10	43.48
Other Sites ...	3	13.04

CARCASSES REJECTED AS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

1957

DISEASES	Bulls	Cows	Heifers	Steers	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Totals
Bad Bleeding ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Bruising, extensive and severe ...	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	4
Emaciation, pathological ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	4	5
Fever (including salmonellosis) ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Immaturity								
Oedematous carcasses and carcasses in poor physical condition	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	4
Metritis, acute septic	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	3
Moribund ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Oedema, generalised	—	1	1	—	—	3	—	5
Peritonitis, acute, diffuse, septic ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	11
Pneumonia, acute, sept.	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Pyæmia, including joint-ill ...	—	—	1	—	5	2	1	9
Septicaemia or toxæmia ...	—	—	—	—	2	2	5	9
Swine erysipelas, acute ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
Swine Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Tuberculosis, generalised ...	—	4	5	3	1	—	13	26
Tuberculosis, congenital ...	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	3
Tumours								
(a) Malignant with secondary growths ...	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	3
(b) Multiple ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Uraemia ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
TOTALS	—	8	7	6	20	10	42	93

THE DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER, 1957

This Order came into operation on 1st June, 1957, and is intended to prevent the spread of Foot and Mouth Disease by prohibiting the feeding of unboiled waste food to certain animals or poultry.

The County Council delegated its inspection and licensing powers under the Order to this Council.

Pigkeepers, smallholders and farmers were advised of the requirements of the Order in relation to the boiling of waste food, cleansing of equipment and the need to prevent livestock gaining access to unboiled waste food.

8 licences were issued to farmers and pigkeepers whose premises satisfied this Order.

DISINFESTATION

A Pests Officer and two trained Rodent Operators are employed throughout the year on pest destruction.

The Department's activities are directed mainly towards the extermination of the rodent population. All private houses are treated free of cost, but a charge is made in respect of business premises to cover the cost of labour, materials and transport. Warfarin poison continues to be very effective for general use against rats and mice in and around inhabited buildings. For sewer treatments, which are carried out in Spring and Autumn, Zinc Phosphide and Arsenic are still employed. It does appear, however, that the rats are becoming less inclined to consume baits mixed with these powerful, but odorous poisons and it is intended to undertake sewer treatment using Warfarin mixed with Paranitrophenol to preserve the bait. The extra expense involved in purchasing this material would be offset by eliminating the prebaiting routine.

The old brick sewers continue to be the main reservoir of these pests and constant attention is required at such places as Corporation tips, sewage works and parks, whilst the banks of the River Chelt and other streams are regularly surveyed.

A wide variety of insect pests are also dealt with, including ants, flies, cockroaches, wasps, etc. Residual Insecticides, such as D.D.T. and Gammexane in liquid or powder form are found effective in most cases and a supply of Dieldrin and Malathion are available for specific treatments where D.D.T. is not efficacious.

All canteens in the Borough are treated with D.D.T. residual spray as a preventative against flies each Spring.

The town has a considerable pigeon population that cause not only a nuisance, but a great deal of damage. Buildings are defaced and pavements fouled, whilst large accumulations of droppings accrue in roof spaces and gutters. Following complaints of the taste of water in some of the larger houses, dead pigeons have been found in the storage tanks seriously contaminating the domestic supply.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

PART 1—RATS AND MICE

	<i>Rats</i>	<i>Mice</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Complaints Received : ...	262	333	595
2. Number of Premises Inspected :			
(a) As a result of complaint			
Private Dwellings ...		298	
Business Premises ...		119	
Local Authority Properties		11	
		—	428
(b) As routine visit or survey			
Private Dwellings ...		256	
Business Premises ...		45	
Local Authority Premises		44	
		—	345
3. Number of Premises found to be infested :			
	<i>Rats</i>	<i>Mice</i>	
Private Dwellings ...	155	200	355
Business Premises ...	33	93	126
Local Authority Premises	22	8	30
		—	511
4. Number of Visits Paid :			
	<i>Rats</i>	<i>Mice</i>	
(a) For inspection ...	981	429	1410
(b) For treatment ...	2672	907	3579
		—	4989
5. Sewer Maintenance Treatments :			
Total number of manholes in Borough ...	...	...	1657
Test Bait (April, 1957)			
Number of sewer manholes baited ...	...	...	148
" " " where bait taken ...		61	41%
Maintenance Treatment No. 21 (May, 1957)			
Number of sewer manholes baited ...	...	...	168
" " " where pre-bait taken		133	79%
" " " " posion bait taken		32	24%
Maintenance Treatment No. 22 (October, 1957)			
Number of sewer manholes baited ...	...	...	175
" " " where pre-bait taken		99	57%
" " " " poison bait taken		35	35%

PART II—OTHER PESTS

1. Complaints received :								
	<i>Ants/Flies</i>	<i>Beetles</i>	<i>Moles</i>	<i>Pigeons</i>	<i>Rabbits</i>	<i>Wasps</i>	<i>Insects etc.</i>	<i>Total</i>
	24	22	5	4	2	77	13	147
2. Number of Visits Paid :								
Inspection	18	25	122	14	28	24	24	255
Treatment	27	66	75	8	5	125	3	309

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S STAFF

as at 31st December, 1957

TECHNICAL

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector	<i>A. L. Jones, M.A.P.H.I., San.Science R.S.H. *†</i>
District Inspectors	<i>H. Stone, M.A.P.H.I.*†</i> <i>G. J. C. Buck, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.*†</i> <i>A. H. Carling, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.*†</i> <i>R. J. Wintle, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.*†</i>
Student	<i>R. E. Jones</i>

ABATTOIR

Meat Inspector	<i>R. Hullab, M.Inst.M.*†</i>
Superintendent	<i>T. W. Agg</i>
Assistant Superintendent	<i>E. W. Yeates</i>
Stoker/Handyman	<i>A. Edwards</i>
Driver/Handyman	<i>D. Banyard.</i>

*Certified Meat and Food Inspector, R.S.H.

†Public Health Inspector's Education Board Certificate.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

Disinfection Officer	<i>G. Cross.</i>
----------------------	------------------

DRAIN-TESTING, ETC.

Operator	<i>W. Taylor</i>
----------	------------------

RODENT CONTROL

Pests Officer	<i>A. Anson.</i>
Operators	<i>G. Richardson.</i> <i>H. J. Nunney.</i>

CLERICAL

Senior Clerk	<i>D. Y. Harrison.</i>
Clerical Assistant	<i>Mrs. M. Rogers</i>
Chief Public Health Inspector's Secretary	<i>Miss M. E. J. Edden.</i>
Shorthand-Typist	<i>Vacant at present</i>
Junior Clerk	<i>Miss M. A. McKenzie.</i>

